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Reagan and Gorbachev set priorities in first session

Superpower summit opens in Moscow

MOSCOW, May 29, (Reuters): President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev today set priorities for their fourth summit in a cordial and businesslike first session and Reagan emerged with a sense of progress, US officials said.

They spoke frankly. They spoke directly. And they spoke with a great deal of energy on a great many subjects, White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker said.

"It's going to be a good summit," he predicted.

Baker, speaking from Moscow on US television, described the meeting as a "scene-setter" for the five-day summit.



Reagan (left) and Gorbachev having their first talks in Moscow. (Reuters wirephoto)

Limits

"These two men by themselves have now sort of set the limits on where these conversations will go," Baker said.

"And based on what we've seen so far they are going to be to be energetic conversations and I don't know what else will come out of it."

He said the President emerged from the session with "a sense of progress," but said he would let

Reagan himself describe any progress that was anticipated at the summit.

Secretary of State George Shultz, in a separate US televi-

sion interview, called the one-hour, 11-minute meeting "very cordial... businesslike" and said the President gave priority to alleged Soviet human rights

abuses.

Soviet officials have been angered by Reagan's pre-summit pronouncements on alleged Soviet human rights abuses,

including a speech he made on Friday in Helsinki, accusing the President of lecturing them like a teacher.

Baker said he believed it was clear Moscow did not like having its human rights record criticised.

"I don't think there's any doubt the Soviets don't like to hear that, but I think it's really clear the President's going to continue (to raise human rights issues)," he said.

Shortcomings

"President Reagan does not have a concrete idea, understanding of where the human rights issue stands in the Soviet Union," Soviet spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said after the two leaders concluded the first of four face-to-face formal sessions.

But White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Reagan told Gorbachev at the outset of the summit meeting that the human rights issue was "pride of place because of its importance to the American people."

"We know about our shortcomings, but we don't like it much when somebody from outside tells us how we should live," (Continued on Page 2)

Cabinet sacked: polls within 90 days

Zia-ul-Haq dissolves National Assembly

PAKISTANI President Zia-ul-Haq yesterday dissolved the National Assembly and sacked Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo and his cabinet, saying the legislators failed to maintain law and order.

Zia announced elections will be held on party basis within 90 days according to the constitution.

The action could plunge the country into a new political crisis. Junejo was heading the first civilian cabinet since martial law was lifted on Dec 31, 1984, after eight years.

Addressing a hurriedly called news conference at the President's House, Zia said he would address the nation over radio and television today, when a caretaker government will be named. He said the constitution and the senate — the upper house of Parliament — would remain intact.

A decision about provincial assemblies will also be announced today. Reliable sources told the Arab Times these will not be dissolved.



Zia: promise

whether I am the Chief of Army Staff or not, or whether the present (civil) government is good or bad ... if conditions in country change and worsen as they were in 1977, then someone will have to rectify. But I don't see any such situation arising."

According to the eighth amendment of the constitution affected by Zia in 1985 before lifting martial law the president can dissolve National Assembly without consulting the prime minister.

days," said Benazir, leader of the country's largest political organisation, the Pakistan People's Party.

Ever since she returned to Pakistan in April 1986 from self-exile in Europe to spearhead the opposition challenge, she has demanded that general elections be held.

She declined to comment on whether Zia's move was linked to an announcement by her family four days ago that she was pregnant. Benazir married Pakistani businessman Asif Ali Zardari in December 1987.

"Zia was waiting for Benazir's pregnancy," a political analyst said. "He was waiting for this moment."

Benazir declined to say whether her party would participate in the elections. She said that before a decision could be made she would have to read the rules governing the elections and see whether the voting would be held on a party basis.

Situation

AP reports: The present Assembly was elected to five-year terms in December 1984, but political parties were not permitted to field candidates. That led to a boycott by most opposition parties of the referendum, in which voters approved continuation of the policy of Islamisation of society and the economy.

As Zia read his dismissal orders, he said he felt "a situation has arisen in which the government of the federation cannot be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the constitution, and an appeal to the electorate is necessary."

Unsafe

"The life, property and honour and security of the citizens of Pakistan have been rendered totally unsafe, and the integrity and ideology of Pakistan have been seriously endangered," Zia told the news conference.

Zia, who said he had watched with concern as "law and order had broken down to an alarming extent," apparently was referring to repeated ethnic violence in Pakistan's biggest city, Karachi, over the last two years in which several hundred people have died.

Violence, organised crime, illegal weapons and numerous other crimes have marred the national scene over the same period.

In an exclusive interview with Arab Times three days earlier, Zia had hinted at the possibility of another martial law. He said: "If such a situation (as in 1977) arises then Army may take over. Whether you like it or not,

Return

Zia, 64, announced the dismissals minutes after Junejo returned to Islamabad after a week-long visit to China, South Korea and the Philippines.

Most members of Junejo's 33-man cabinet then started gathering at the former prime minister's house in Rawalpindi, 10 miles (16 km) south of Islamabad, to discuss Zia's action and its political implications.

In a major policy change, Zia said political parties will be permitted to propose their own candidates to contest the assembly seats.

Consistent

"The objects and purpose for which the National Assembly was elected have not been fulfilled," he said. "The law and order in the country have broken down to an alarming extent, resulting in tragic loss of innumerable valuable lives as well as loss of property."

He claimed public morality has deteriorated to an "unprecedented level."

"My decision is consistent with the constitution and a step toward strengthening and consolidating democracy," Zia said. "I was forced by the dictates of my conscience to take these measures as the purpose for which the referendum was held and that is Islamisation, has not

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Almuda: 37°C 99°F

Falaka: 38°C 100°F

Minimum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 25°C 77°F

Almuda: 28°C 82°F

Falaka: 28°C 82°F

Maximum temperature expected: Kuwait: 40°C 104°F

Almuda: 37°C 99°F

Falaka: 38°C 100°F

Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 31 per cent

Almuda: 40 per cent

Falaka: 49 per cent

Maximum humidity expected: Kuwait: 30 per cent

Almuda: 39 per cent

Falaka: 45 per cent

A joint decision may be made at the summit

US, UK hopeful of a UN arms embargo on Iran

By Jadranka Porter

THE United States and Britain are hopeful that the current summit meeting between President Reagan and Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev may result in a joint decision to go ahead with the arms embargo resolution in the Iran-Iraq war.

British and American diplomats in the Gulf said they would not be surprised if the Soviets softened their attitude, clearing the way for a super-power agreement on the issue.

Vocal

"The Soviets are being co-operative but they are not working with the same speed as we are," said the British Ambassador to Kuwait, Peter Hinchcliffe.

Asked whether the Americans

expected the Soviets to express a more favourable view of the embargo resolution during the summit, the spokesman for the US embassy in Bahrain said: "Yes."

The US and Britain have been vocal advocates of an arms embargo against Iran as a follow-up to the UN Security Council resolution 598 passed unanimously last July, which called for the ceasefire in the Gulf war and the withdrawal of all forces to the internationally recognised borders.

The Soviet Union demanded that more time be allowed for the UN secretary-general to explore ways of implementing the ceasefire resolution which was accepted by Iraq, Iranian acceptance was hedged about by so many conditions as to be a dead letter.

The Soviets also called for the

withdrawal of the US Navy from the Gulf and proposed that a UN naval force should patrol the Gulf waters.

However, diplomats in Kuwait note that in the months leading up to the summit there were no fresh calls for the embargo against Iran and the Soviets have not repeated their demands.

This gave rise to speculation that the interest in the embargo resolution might be on the wane.

The US Ambassador to the United Nations, Vernon Walters, told a news conference in Manama on Saturday that Washington was seeking to persuade the belligerents to soften their positions on the UN resolution calling for a ceasefire, suggesting that the US may be trying another approach to end the conflict.

But the American diplomats in

Kuwait and Bahrain stressed that the US is as eager as ever to see the embargo resolution through but admitted that the issue has not been not publicly discussed in recent months.

Pressing

"The arms embargo is seen as a tool to implement the 598," said the American diplomat in Bahrain.

Hinchcliffe confirmed that the US and Britain were pressing hard for the embargo resolution adding that France as well seems inclined to support it.

"The UN secretary-general has been talking with both sides," he said, adding that the efforts to achieve the ceasefire were rather like "pushing a heavy stone up a steep hill."

A number of difficulties facing UN mediators stem from the fact

Iraq shatters a myth

BAGHDAD, May 29, (Agencies): Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said last night the battles to liberate Faw and east Basra had proved Western claims of Iran's superiority in infantry wrong.

He emphasised that Iraq is superior in armoured and in the air, he said: "During battles to liberate Faw peninsula April 18 and east of Basra May 25, the Iraqi soldiers marched between 20 and 30 kilometres a day fighting continuously, deciding the battle in 35 hours in the Faw and 10 hours in Salamchah."

Saddam was speaking at a ceremony yesterday in which he awarded the Rafidain Medal and badges of courage to a number of Iraqi military commanders.

Lessons

The Iraqi leader urged the Iranian regime to draw lessons from the eight years of war and understand that time is not on their side, calling on Tehran to heed the calls for peace.

Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini has said: "The fate of the war with Iraq will be decided on battlefield."

Meanwhile, eight US warships on active service in the Gulf gathered for a pow-wow around Bahrain today, a military official said, in what appeared to be an exchange of views among senior US Navy officers on how best to tackle a recent spate of Iranian attacks against neutral shipping.

Six shot during fresh Gaza unrest

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 29, (AP): Six Palestinians were shot and wounded and about 60 other Arabs were treated for injuries from rubber bullets and tear gas in clashes with Israeli soldiers in two refugee camps in the occupied Gaza Strip, hospital officials said today.

In the West Bank, classes resumed for about 70,000 Arab junior high school students in the second stage of Israel's plan to reopen 1,200 schools shut down nearly four months ago because of the Palestinian uprising. No major trouble was reported as classes resumed for students aged 12 to 15.

Poll

A new poll also showed Israelis are slightly less confident about their country's future but more willing than their political leaders to hold peace talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

"We find that two-thirds of Israelis under certain conditions were willing to hold a dialogue with the P.L.O.," polling expert Yossi Alper said on Israel Army radio. "There is no Zionist party that holds such a position."

The injuries in the Gaza Strip came during clashes last night and this morning, according to officials at Gaza's Shifa hospital where the casualties were treated.

Serious

A 29-year-old man was in serious condition after being shot when Israeli troops opened fire today at stone throwers in the Shati refugee camp near Gaza City, the officials said.

The night before youths threw stones and firebombs in nearby Jabalya camp and Israeli troops responded with tear gas and rubber bullets, Arab news reports said.

About 60 people were treated at the camp clinic for rubber bullet injuries and effects of tear gas, the reports said.

Tensions have been high in the Gaza area since Friday when a three-year-old girl was brought dead to a Gaza City hospital, and her family said she died after tear gas was fired outside their home.

A taxi was set ablaze in the West Bank city of Ramallah, and rocks were thrown at passing cars.

In a related development, a spokesman for the military government in the West Bank said that along with re-opening schools, the government expected to free from prison dozens of youths age 14 to 18 who were arrested in minor demonstrations and now want to return to classes.

with friends we can obtain the release of the hostages," he said.

Salman said Syria was seeking to establish a central authority in Lebanon, ravaged by 13 years of civil war. "Unless we reach that, there will not be presidential elections," warning of a constitutional vacuum after President Amin Gemayel's term ends in September.

A Syrian command source said Saturday the Syrian soldiers in the suburbs would remain outside the Hay Madi district, which harbours the main barracks of the Hezbollah.

Most of the foreign hostages in Beirut were believed to be held in the Hezbollah barracks. The hostage held longest is American Terry Anderson. Associated Press chief Middle East correspondent. He was kidnapped on March 16, 1985.

But a Lebanese security source said the Syrian deployment around Hay Madi was meant to tighten the noose on Hezbollah, because "the kidnappers will not be able to move the hostages from one place to another."

The Syrians moved into south Beirut after the fighting between their ally, Amal and Hezbollah.

Syrian troops patrol Beirut slums

Pledge renewed to work for release of hostages

BEIRUT, May 29, (AP): An estimated 2,400 Syrian troops today patrolled Beirut's southern slums, where foreign hostages are believed held, and a senior Shiite Muslim cleric renewed a pledge to work for the release of the captives.

"Although I possess no great means of pressure, I shall exert continuous efforts to resolve the question of the hostages," said Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, spiritual guide of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah.

Hint

"I am viewing the hostages' issue from both humanitarian and Islamic standpoints. It is hurting our credibility," Fadlallah said in an interview published today by the conservative Beirut daily Ad Diyar.

Fadlallah has made several pledges in the past three years. Although Hezbollah has publicly denied involvement in the kidnappings, the group is widely believed to be an umbrella for underground factions that are holding the hostages.

In Damascus, an informed Syrian source said today the hostages were not part of a Syrian-Iranian deal under which the Syrian Army intervened Friday to halt a three-week bloodbath between rival Shiite militias.

Authority

Syria's Information Minister, Mohammed Salman, yesterday also hinted the hostages were not part of the deal. "There is no timetable for the release of the hostages," he said.

"We are still in the first step which is stopping the fighting," Salman told reporters. "We hope that through dialogue and political action and cooperation

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Sinhalese militants kill 10 people in pre-poll violence

COLOMBO, May 29, (UPI): Sinhalese radicals killed 10 people in escalating violence aimed at undermining elections scheduled next month in the country's Buddhist-dominated south, police said today.

Police said about 20 gunmen from the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) stormed a house of an election candidate in Homagama, 25 km southeast of Colombo last night.

The attackers sprayed the living room with bursts from Chinese-made assault rifles, killing six people and wounding three others, including the apparent target of the assault, K.W.G. Dharmasena of the ruling United National Party (UNP), police said.

The police added the terrorists killed Dharmasena's father, his ten-year-old daughter, his brother-in-law and three unidentified political supporters.

"The terrorists fired indiscriminately around the unit room and apparently did not identify Dharmasena," one officer said. "He was lucky to escape with a light wound."

Police also reported two candidates for the United Socialist Alliance (USA) were among four people shot dead Saturday after-

noon by a JVP gunman outside the leftist party's office near Matale, 80 km south of Colombo.

The radicals belong to the island's majority Buddhist Sinhalese community and oppose a government peace plan signed last July with leaders of the Hindu Tamil minority.

The Sinhalese radicals protest the deployment of Indian troops to enforce the terms of the treaty, and police said they have killed 16 political candidates since the last month's announcement of elections for three Sinhalese-dominated provinces.

Voting for governing councils in western and central provinces will be held Thursday, and elections in southern province, a hotbed of radical activity, are scheduled for June 9.

The JVP are opposed to these councils because they are the means the government plans to use to share power with the Tamils in the north and east.

Rebels in this region, belonging to the Hindu minority have waged a five-year-old campaign for a separate nation and have killed more than 350 people in their anti-government campaign during the 10 months since the accord was signed, police said.

Rebels reject contact with new Afghan premier

Najib calls for ceasefire

KABUL, May 29, (Reuters): Afghan President Najibullah inaugurated his country's first parliament in 15 years today with a call for peace and an immediate ceasefire with anti-government mujahedeen.

The 184 members of the lower house and 150 senators, elected last month in polls boycotted by the rebels, plus 200 observers including East bloc diplomats and a handful of Western journalists, crushed into the rococo ballroom of a former royal palace to hear Najibullah's 20-minute speech.

"As President of the country, I propose to the national assembly measures intended to bring about an immediate ceasefire, return and resettlement of Afghan refugees and to put into effect amnesty decrees," he told them.

Muslim guerrilla party leaders, meanwhile rejected contact with new Afghan Prime Minister Mohammad Hassan

Sharq, the man in Kabul considered most likely to persuade them to join a coalition government.

KGB agent

Today, as a new Afghan national assembly opened in Kabul, political leaders in Pakistan's border city Peshawar dismissed Sharq as a communist and accused him of being an agent for the Soviet Union.

"He was a communist before and he is a communist now. He was an agent of the KGB (Soviet intelligence)," said Mohammad Shah Fazle, vice-chairman of the broad-based Harakat Inqilabi-Islami group.

Other older leaders of the guerrilla movement, who remember Sharq from the days of unrest in Afghanistan before the Soviet intervention in 1979, also said that Najibullah's appointment of Sharq made no difference to their promise to fight on until the Kabul govern-

ment had fallen.

"This is no significant change at all. It's certain that there will be no change in our position and we will never be ready to work with these people," said Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, head of the Afghan National Liberation Front.

Dialogue

Najib said last month's Geneva accords on the withdrawal of Soviet troops "do not mean immediate peace but have created the necessary external conditions." It was up to parliament to seek concessions and dialogue with the opposition, he said, but warned that these could not touch on the territorial integrity or sovereignty of Afghanistan.

He said that in this context the armed forces would be strengthened and their combat readiness elevated.

Najibullah formally proposed Mohammad Hassan Sharq as

Prime Minister. His name had already been announced and his election by parliament is expected to be a formality. The President added that the revolutionary council which has substituted for a parliament since the 1978 revolution was now disbanded.

Parliamentary elections that took place after a 1973 coup ousted King Zahir Shah were the last in Afghanistan before last month's voting, and like them, were widely disputed. Parliament has not met since 1973.

The former prime minister, Sultan Ali Keshtmand, was consoled with a decoration, the Sun of Freedom, and was made one of the nine secretaries of the PDPA.

Meanwhile, a survey said, systematic destruction of farms, fields, and animals by the Soviet and Afghan armies has cut food production in half and turned Afghanistan into a wasteland.

"There was a deliberate and



Najib: peace

systematic plan to destroy agriculture in the 80 per cent of the country controlled by the mujahedeen," the survey director Azam Gul.

"This will pose a major problem for the repatriation of the estimated 5.5 million Afghan refugees," he told reporters.

Azam Gul, former head of agronomy at Kabul University, said the survey, initiated in 1986 by the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan, was the first of its kind during the eight-year war but also the most comprehensive on the country.

Hopes for UN arms embargo

(Continued from Page 1)

that the Iranians do not speak with one voice, according to the Italian Ambassador to Kuwait, Lucio Forattini.

"It is difficult to identify real decision-makers in Tehran," said Forattini, adding that the initiatives of Iran's envoy in the UN have not always had the backing of his foreign minister.

Disappointed

Italy's Foreign Affairs Minister, Giulio Andreotti, has expressed disappointment following a visit by his Iranian counterpart, at the lack of a clearly defined Iranian stance concerning the ceasefire, Forattini said.

Hinchcliffe pointed out that if the superpowers were in agreement about the embargo resolution, this would lead to an agreement between the permanent members of the Security Council. Once the permanent members — Britain, China, France, Soviet Union and the US, had given a united lead, then it would facilitate a unanimous resolution by the Security Council as a whole.

"At the moment we don't have a full agreement among the five permanent members," he said.

The Chinese ambassador to Kuwait is reported to be advocating patience.

Quoting the example of the Korean war, he reportedly said to a Western diplomat: "Don't be in a hurry. It took one year of negotiations before the ceasefire could be achieved in the Korean conflict."

It would take nine out of 15 votes in favour and no dissenting votes to pass the resolution.

Hinchcliffe presumes that a sufficient number of votes can be summoned at present to pass the resolution. But he pointed out that the aim is a unanimous accord as was the case with the 598 resolution, for greater impact.

"I think if all five permanent members agree, the other 10 will follow," he said.

The British envoy said that the recent developments in the Iran-Iraq war have somewhat obscured the view of some Security Council members as to the real violators of the 598 resolution.

"Originally the finger was pointed at Iran but after the recent Iraqi success on the war front not all permanent members are willing to point the finger at one side only," Hinchcliffe said.

Laraki meets Mubarak. CAIRO, May 29, (Reuters): Moroccan Prime Minister, Azizeddine Laraki, said after meeting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak today, that Rabat supported Cairo's return to the Arab League.

Laraki, in Cairo at the head of a delegation for economic cooperation talks, also gave Mubarak a letter from King Hassan.

Suspended. KUALA LUMPUR, May 29, (Reuters): Malaysia has suspended the head of its judiciary over allegations of misbehaviour, including partiality in cases involving the main ruling party.

Rebels shot dead. MANILA, May 29, (Reuters): Troops have shot dead 15 Communist guerrillas in clashes around the Philippines, the military said today.

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Nato chief warns against defence row

FUNCHAL, Madeira, May 29, (Reuters): Warning of a smouldering volcano inside the Nato alliance, Secretary-General Lord Carrington said today the United States and its European allies must strike a better balance over sharing military costs and responsibilities.

Addressing the North Atlantic Assembly of Nato parliamentarians, Carrington backed its call for steps to strengthen Western Europe's contribution to the 16-nation Atlantic alliance.

Referring to recent charges by the US Congress that the European allies are not doing enough for their own defence, Carrington said the issue "like a volcano ... smoulders continuously."

Calling for a better equilibrium between the Europeans and the United States, Carrington said the current debate must not become "an argument about who does what."

Moscow summit

(Continued from Page 1)

shot back Gerasimov.

Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci, in another US television interview from Moscow, said Reagan briefed his top aides on the meeting, describing it as "a cordial session, a wideranging discussion."

Carlucci said the two men did not discuss arms control in detail but "overall it was a good businesslike session."

He called for greater defence cooperation among the allies to make up for the absence of extra resources and said the European allies should take more of the political burden in the alliance.

Risks

In particular, he said, the Europeans could lend more political support by helping maintain US nuclear forces in Europe "thereby spreading those risks and burdens more fully and fairly."

Carrington was speaking in a debate on a special report, titled "Nato in the 1990s" which formed the centrepiece of the assembly's three-day spring session on this Portuguese island.

The report, composed by a panel of legislators and defence experts from the United States and nine other alliance members, calls for a new political mandate to be drawn up to reflect a fundamental change in the relationship between Western Europe and America.

Carlucci and Colin Powell, the President's National Security Adviser, said they believed some progress was possible during the summit on a strategic arms reduction pact.

While no major arms control agreements were to be signed at the summit, Reagan and Gorbachev will exchange ratification documents on Wednesday for the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty they signed last December in Washington.

Jews, Armenians and even American Indians staged protests in Moscow today.

Zia dissolves

(Continued from Page 1)

been fulfilled."

Zia, who continues as President and military chief of staff, named the 56-year-old British-educated Junjo as prime minister on March 23, 1985, the same day he began serving a five-year presidential term.

Zia and Junjo generally got along well, but political observers had said they had started sensing a divergence of views on domestic policy issues. After Junjo formed his own Pakistan Muslim League party two years ago, other opposition political parties became active.

These include the PPP which is a particular source of annoyance to Zia.

In late 1977, Zia toppled the then Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto — later hanged on charges of conspiracy and murder of a political opponent — and thought his daughter might one day start pursuing her father's policies of populist socialism.

Reminder

He said that over the last two years, he repeatedly has reminded Junjo to improve the country's law and order situation and speed up Islamisation. But, he said, Junjo took the view that he has to move along with the wishes of the Assembly members, by which he meant a gradual Islamisation, and not a major crackdown to curb lawlessness.

Today's action followed speculation that Zia might discard the three-year-old parliamentary system modelled largely on the British pattern. He did not mention any such plans in his announcement.

Zia said he has postponed his visit to China, which was scheduled to begin tomorrow.

Five die as floods hit Bangladesh

DHAKA, May 29, (AP): As many as half a million people have been driven from their homes and at least five killed by flooding in Bangladesh's north-eastern districts, government officials and news reports said today.

As yet, the flooding has not approached the level of last spring's, the worst in 70 years, in which more than one-quarter of the nation's 105 million people were forced to flee and more than 1,000 were killed.

This year, heavy rains and the annual snow melt from the Himalaya mountains have sent the Surma and Koshi rivers in the northeastern districts of Sylhet and Sunamganj over their banks, the report said.

Died

Therivers are part of the Brahmaputra system which also flows through India. Flooding along the Brahmaputra has taken the lives of at least 26 people in the northeastern Indian state of Assam, Indian news agencies reported Saturday.

Government officials in Sylhet, 160 kilometres (100 miles) northeast of Dhaka, said today that three people died yesterday

when their house was washed away and two others were drowned.

The officials, who asked that their names not be used, said at least 30,000 people have been marooned. Thousands of others made their way to relief camps and were being aided by local Red Cross officers and government agencies.

The government-owned Bengali-language Dainik Bangla newspaper said at least 500,000 people had been driven from their homes during the past week of rain and flooding in the two districts.

Inundated

Thousands of acres (hectares) of tea plantations and rice paddies were reported inundated, with as much as 40,000 hectares (100,000 acres) of rice potentially lost. Rice is a staple food in Bangladesh.

The government officials said that flights were disrupted at the airport at the town of Sylhet yesterday and the flights could be suspended if the flooding continues.

Some market towns in Sunamganj district were reported under two feet (half a metre) of water.

Sikh leader detained

CHANDIGARH, May 29, (Reuters): A Sikh leader and six associates were detained today under tough security legislation in Punjab, where police reported eight more killings in the struggle for a separate Sikh state.

The Press Trust of India (PTI)

said at least eight people, including a local leader of the ruling Congress (I) Party, had been shot dead in the northern state in the past 24 hours.

PTI said gunmen opened fire at a shop in Ludhiana, killing Atma Ram Arya, a local general secretary of the party, and a friend this morning. Six people, including a Sikh militant, were killed elsewhere in Punjab.

Police said former state chief minister Prakash Singh Badal and six of his associates were detained under the tough National Security Act. They were already in jail for defying a ban on protest marches.



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Kuwait

Beatings could result in permanent disability for a majority of Palestinians

Israeli atrocities shocking

By Fathima Ahmed

THE beating of men, women and children in the occupied territories could result in permanent disability for a majority of Palestinians, said Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) health worker Susan Wighton, at a news conference held in Kuwait yesterday.

Wighton, who recently visited the occupied territories, said: "Women are frightened to come out of homes. A four-month infant suffered from effects of tear gas inhalation because soldiers failed to follow instructions. They were supposed to fire the tear gas shell from a distance of 150 metres."

Common
"The Israeli atrocities are simply shocking," she said. "Fractures are the most common injury among Palestinian men. Ordinarily, you don't see a man with fractures in both arms. Such deliberate injuries are multiplying by the thousands," she said.

She recalled the case of a four-year-old boy, rescued by MAP workers, who was shot in the head, at close range, by a rubber bullet in the Balata camp in Nablus. The child was unconscious. Due to lack of medical facilities, it took over an hour before medical help could be given to him.

"He has survived but he needs to be on anti-epileptic medicine for the next two years. And this costs money," said Wighton. "Medical care is being denied to them. Hospitals are damaged, patients are driven out of beds and beaten up."

"Some patients are taken to

military hospitals in exchange for information. The situation is getting worse as whole camps are being beaten up by soldiers," said Wighton.

Wighton says "collective punishment" is meted out to entire camps and all males over 10 are subject to beatings. "This is criminal," she said.

Medical teams are sometimes not allowed access to camps and other areas, she added.

Wighton is in Kuwait with MAP board member Dr Swee Chai Ang, an orthopaedic surgeon. At a press conference organised by the Kuwait Women's Social and Cultural Society, they appealed for funds to carry out their "humanitarian work in the refugee camps in Beirut and occupied territories."

Launching an appeal, Dr Ang said: "We are there (in Israel and Lebanon refugee camps) to put right a wrong done to a people." Dr Ang stresses MAP is "not political." "We are not political. We cannot influence foreign policy of countries. We cannot ask Israel to stop beating Palestinians. What we can do is help rebuild the life of men and women suffering due to circumstances of history. We do this through the efforts of MAP."

Provide

Founded and registered in 1972 in the UK, the charity was relaunched as MAP in 1984 by British and other citizens.

The UN through its agencies like UNRWA, UNICEF and the WHO provide basic necessities of life to the refugees. MAP tries to make "life a little bit easier, a little less painful."

Shortages — food, medicine, water and clothing — are ever present in the refugee camps in Sabra and Chatilla, and the shelters built in underground car parks in Beirut. Some 65 doctors and other workers are active in the camps, providing what medical help they can to people living in "unnatural, sub-human conditions." Between 1985 and January 1988, when the camp siege ended, one in five people were killed and two died every three days in the camps. Two thirds of the camps was destroyed and food had run out. "Adults were not eating for up to three days; children and adults suffered malnutrition."

Raise funds
MAP, which has expanded its work in occupied territories, urgently needs funds to continue its work. "We have run out of money. We need, they (Palestinians) need all the support they can get."

A concert is being held on June 2 at the Regency Palace Hotel in aid of MAP. Wighton and Dr Ang will visit Qatar and Jordan as part of their efforts to raise funds for their charity.

"As foreigners we can negotiate our way out of camps. The Palestinians have no way out. So, help us make life a little easier for them," they said.

The MAP press conference was arranged by Adelha Musad Al Sayer on behalf of the Kuwaiti Women's Social and Cultural Society.

Wighton and Dr Ang are expected to see senior Kuwaiti government officials and representatives of charity groups here.



HH the Amir with Jumblatt (second right).

Sheikh Nasser heads Kuwait team to ILO meet

KUWAIT'S Social Affairs and Labour Minister Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed left here for Geneva heading Kuwait's delegation to the 75th session of the International Labour Organisation scheduled to take place from June 1 to 22.

He told Kuna before departure that he will be guided during participation in the conference's deliberations with instructions of HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Premier, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

Sheikh Nasser said that he met both Kuwaiti and other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council through cooperation and coordination with their chief delegates.

He noted that he also was received by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed.

The minister said that he will hold talks with heads of sisterly Arab, Third World and friendly delegates to boost Kuwait's call

for justice, peace and mutual respect among world countries.

Noting that the session will deliberate the director general's report on human rights, he said that Kuwait enjoys the world respect for its support to human rights and international doctrines.

He pointed out that wars and terrorism obstruct realisation of human rights in addition to backwardness and unemployment.

Sheikh Nasser said that Kuwait had suffered a lot from blind terrorism and cited last month's hijack of the Kuwaiti airliner Al Jaberiya during which two of the Kuwaiti youths were killed.

The Palestinians in the occupied territories suffer from serious violations of their human rights as a result of the Israeli occupation authorities' repressive and terrorist practices, Sheikh Nasser underlined, affirming that these issues will be discussed during the conference.

Kuwait to mark 40th day of assassination



Al Wazir

THE widow of Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad), Mrs Intisar Al Wazir will take part in a commemoration to be held June 1 marking the 40th day of her husband's assassination.

Abu Jihad was killed by Mossad agents at his home in Tunisia last April 16.

Mrs Al Wazir arrived here last night.

E. German-Kuwait co-operation

A MEETING between an East German delegation and officials at the Kuwait Ministry of Communications was held yesterday to follow up implementation of an agreement on technical and scientific co-operation in the fields of telecommunications signed between the two countries in June 1987.

A statement by the Ministry of Communications said that a number of joint issues related to the above agreement were discussed.

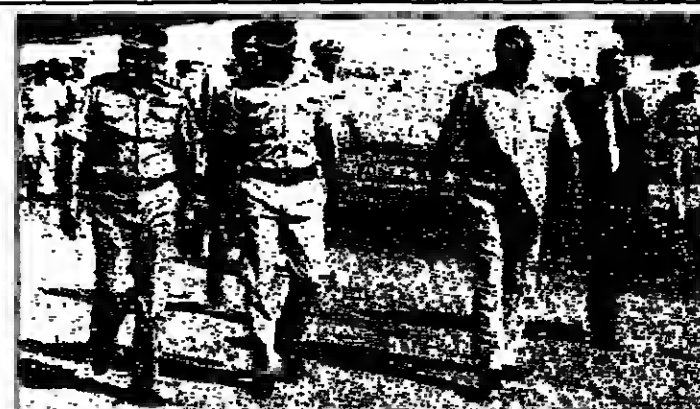
Prior to the meeting, the East German delegation, currently visiting the country, met with the Ministry of Communications' Assistant Undersecretary for technical affairs Salman Al Rumi and they discussed phase of joint co-operation between East Germany and Kuwait in the fields of telecommunications.

The East German officials are scheduled to tour a number of Ministry of Communications' installations including a visit to the communications center at Salmiyah today.

Moroccan minister ends visit

JEDDAH, May 29, (Kuna): Moroccan Finance Minister Mohamed Baradah, left here today for home, after a short visit to the kingdom.

In the course of his stay, he delivered written message from King Hassan of Morocco to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz.



The Indian Defence delegation arrived in Kuwait on Saturday. Puri (left) was received at the airport by Colonel Sultan (centre) and the Indian Ambassador to Kuwait N.N. Jha (right front).

Number of students seeking higher education increasing

DR Mohammed Al Saeed, the Assistant Secretary-General of the Arab Universities Union, has suggested that new styles of higher education be considered which would accommodate the increasing number of students seeking admission in higher education facilities.

In an interview with the daily Seyassah, Dr Al Saeed said that according to projections, about 6.2 million students will enrol in Arab universities by the year 2000, requiring an additional 300 universities and 200,000 staff members.

He added that the absence of education plans for the future results in some universities following educational trends and failing to provide an educational background to ensure that graduates found jobs.

Dr Al Saeed said some universities blindly follow foreign curricula which lacked any meaning to the Arab community. He added that the Arabisation of the science curriculum was a vital issue in universities.

Non-aligned Movement urged to help solve regional conflicts

HAVANA, May 29, (Kuna): Kuwait's United Nations Ambassador Mohammad A. Abulhassan today urged the Non-aligned Movement to help solve regional conflicts such as the Iraq-Iran war which he said exhausted the much needed energy of two important members.

Speaking at the extraordinary ministerial meeting of the movement's co-ordinating bureau on disarmament, the Kuwaiti ambassador stressed the need to strengthen the Non-aligned Movement's endeavour for disarmament.

The five-day meeting, which ends Monday, precedes the UN special session on disarmament in New York, from May 31 to June 25, which is expected to call for total disarmament.

Abulhassan said the role chosen by the movement in the field of disarmament requires more efforts from its members to solve regional conflicts and diffuse the tensions that are threatening peace and security in the world.

He called for greater efforts by the Non-aligned Movement to stop the Iraq-Iran war and for the condemnation of the Israeli and South African entities, which he warned are "building nuclear arsenals to be used to terrorise the Middle East and Africa."

"It is imperative to put an end to the increasing anxiety of the peoples of the world, because of the armament race that threatens all of mankind and consumes more than 1.7 million dollars every minute," Abulhassan said.

Indian defence team meets Al Sane

A DELEGATION of the Indian Defence college led by Air Marshal P.K. Puri conferred yesterday with Chief of Staff Maj Gen. Miziyyad Abdul Rahman Al Sane.

The two sides exchanged cordial talk and discussed educational co-operation between the two friendly countries in the military field.

The meeting was attended by the Indian Ambassador to Kuwait and the assistant chief of staff for operations and plans.

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Adelha Musad Al Sayer (centre) flanked by Susan Wighton (right) and Dr Swee Chai Ang. (Photo by Raed Qutaina)



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Job listing

A bitter-sweet story

By Fathima Ahmed

PIROJSHAH rolls his eyeballs, flutters his eyelashes, shrugs his shoulders and looks suspiciously, with hostility, at a four-year-old watching him exercise on the beach. With a scowl on his face, he sends her packing. The sea rumbles, the piano trembles as Pirojshah saunters off toward his home, measuring his steps, slowly, grudgingly, hesitantly, yet alert. The scene sets the pace of Pestonjee. Vijaya Mehta's much acclaimed film documents the life of a Parsi couple, as told by his friend, Pirojshah.

Pestonjee, set in the 1950s and 1960s, authentically portrays the quaint manners, profiling a community that is misrepresented as a bunch of buffoons by the mainstream, commercial cinema. The credit goes to B.K. Karanjia, on whose short story it is based, for scripting the film, along with Mehta.

It is a bitter-sweet story about Pesi, smart of Pestonjee, branded a failure by everyone but himself. Always late in repaying debts, unsure of himself, Pesi tries to lead as normal a life as he can. Once his marriage to Jerroo is settled, he asks Piroj: "Am I the marrying type?" Maybe, maybe not. He proves to be a "bad husband" but he is an adorable individual. It is an unbelly alliance. Jerroo is a selfish, self-centred woman. That their marriage would fail is apparent from the start.

"What do you like?" asks Pesi.

"I like English films, playing the piano and adore Clark Gable, every Saturday I go to the movies, or attend a concert," she says coyly, dramatically, unconvincingly.

"I like children, dozens of them," he falters, "I like everything," he tells her, as she sniffs her powdered nose and theatrically bounces off with Pesi for a "private talk".

This is perhaps the most

evocative sequence; crucial for shaping the ensuing events, unfolding with a touch of mystery. Pirojshah resents what he calls Pesi's irresponsible behaviour, neglecting his wife "destroying her".

Piroj is shocked, returning to Bombay after five years, to see Jerroo's vanity and self-centredness, the woman he secretly loves and almost married, if only he had not worried about matching horoscopes. Piroj's blind adoration clouds his judgement.

That we all judge others, looking down on anything foreign to us is apparent in Piroj's hostility and displeasure, finding fault with Pesi. In a larger context, Karanjia's story is humane and touches your heart, with subtle humour.

There is a tongue-in-cheek comment on Piroj's miserliness when he grandly scolds the servant for "buying a quarter kilo of vegetables; you must buy 100 grams; because you are oversteering, there is poverty in independent India."

Mehta cleverly adds such subtle touches of humour and tragedy throughout the film, like when Piroj welcomes his secretary and blesses her child standing with one foot in a huckle; or when Pesi repays Piroj and pretends not to have taken the money when the grocer arrives; Jerroo's superficiality and her final downfall.

The most dramatic sequence is the final confrontation between Pesi and Piroj, Pesi crying for redemption and Piroj suspecting his friend, throwing him out in disgust.

The three principals — Naseeruddin Shah, Anupam Kher and Shabana Azmi — give superlative performances.

Pestonjee, an elegy to Parsi culture, may go above the heads of those who dare not look beyond themselves, or do not care to understand the nature of a community. The pace is slow, deliberately so, but it is never tedious.

Mohabbat Ke Dushman (The Enemies of Love) are fatigued. So are you by the time you figure out why Shahbaz Khan (Amrith Puri) is enamoured of Shama Jan (Hema Malini). It is one up on a normal love triangle: love square. Everything is checked — from deaths, brothers, brotels to villains and lovers. When Shahbaz Khan kills, he murders in twos; when Rahmat Khan (Raaj Kumar) rescues, he has double trouble. As Shahbaz says: "I understand your attitude; but I don't understand his". We don't understand anything or anyone.

We know love is doomed; we've seen, heard and read about all the tragic love affairs from time immemorial. "The tradition of suffering, sacrificing is centuries old," cries Shama Jan as she burns out. But, then, love is immortal, it must be redeemed. S.L. Kavash's story does just that. Director Prakash Mehra sticks to it. In between immortality and redemption, there is an unhealthy rivalry — the sword-wielding type.

There is nothing erotic in the film. It would be called "a clean family movie with a Muslim background" by film magazines. Yet, the titles roll over a couple's oily, shining bare shoulders. When the man shows his face, you burst out laughing. Wearing the most comical look — inverted V-shaped eyebrows, bald upturned lips and painted moustache running down his jaws, Amrith Puri turns and stares into the camera with a glint in his eye, immersed in an unimaginative bathtub.

The Muslim background is confined to names, costumes and Eid celebration. As far as I know, no Muslim women burst into song — costumed in finery — on Eid day. In Mohabbat, the song is a message of "love". No one understands. Not even the warring Pathan tribals in the film. Prakash Mehra's film does not throw any new light on



Jerroo (Shabana Azmi) and Pesi (Anupam Kher) in Pestonjee

love, it only adds to the misery, one more film to the list of movies already existing on the subject.

Talented actors

Dilip Kumar and Amitabh Bachchan are two of the best known and most talented actors on the Indian screen. Each has his own style. Each belongs to a different generation. Both are popular among the young and old. They are beyond comparison. Shamim Zaidi, who has produced Muqabala based on excerpts from 27 films, agrees: "Today, not many know about Dilip Kumar. I wanted to revive interest in his films." Thus, Muqabala was made. It does evoke nostalgia, and some of it runs off on viewers.

Dilip and Amitabh as comedians are superb; they did not need a comedian to provide humour in their films. In Muqabala, their comedy has you rolling with laughter. In the dramatic sequences, there is scope for the weak-hearted to shed a few tears as well. Both are adept at activating tear ducts.

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CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Last Shark
Starring: James Francisco, Vicki Moro

Al Salmiya
Flashpoint
Starring: Kris Kristofferson, Kevin

Al Hamra
Al Mazaikah (Arabic)
Starring: Sayeed Ziyani, Saeed Saleh, Sabirin

Drive-In
Al Jad'an Talatha (Arabic)
Starring: Samir Gbanem, Roya Al Katib

Al Firdous
Jungle Ki Beti (Hindi)
Starring: Salma Agha, Brando Bakshi

Fahad Open-Air
Jurmata (Hindi)

Al Fahad
Aviator

Al Jahra
Carry on Dick

Granada
Enemy Afraid of 9th Son

Sulaibikhat
Take It Easy

Al Jleeb
Qurbani (Bengali)

Ahmad Drive-In
Carry on Screaming

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TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

2.15 Holy Quran
2.55 World News via Satellite
3.25 Cartoons: Tao Tao
4.00 Magazine D'Actualite
4.45 Beer Al Tayi: Arabic serial, starring Hussein Abu Sharah, Lina Al Tall, Rabeh Shihab.
5.30 Mama Anisa and Children
6.00 Cultural Show
7.00 News Summary
7.05 Songs
7.35 Quran and Science: Alam Al Bahar, Part 7. Prepared and presented by Dr Ahmad Hawki.
8.30 Souk Al Ghaz: daily serial, ep. 8. Starring: Muhammad Saeed Shirin, Zuhair Numani.
9.00 News in Arabic
9.50 Hada Al Rajul! That is the Man! Starring: Neera, Salah Saadani, Khalid Zaki.
11.30 Ismael Yaseen Fi Dimishq: Arabic



Jessica unravels another murder mystery, tonight on Murder, She Wrote, KTV2

feature film, starring: Ismael Yaseen, Samira Ahmad, Ahmad Ramzi, Taufiq Duqqan.
12.35 Holy Quran Close-down

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Wildlife: "The Highwayman", Cartoons
6.30 Suba World: focus

on American divers.
7.00 Roving Report: weekly roundup of world and local events.
7.30 Mr. Belvedere: George goes on strike and the family have to do household chores.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Murder, She Wrote: "Doom With a View". A crime in a hotel baffles the owner.
9.30 National Geographic: "Chesapeake Borne". Festivals, game and hunting on the island.
10.30 Hanlon: "In Defence of Scott and Bramley". Hanlon defends two men charged with murder.
11.30 News in Brief
12.40 Magazine D'Actualite
Holy Quran Close-down

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

English

Morning
0600 Opening
0602 Songs and Music
0605 Science Journal
0630 News
0640 Songs and Music
0645 Daily Programme
0650 Songs and Music
0915 Writer and Their Works
0930 Radio Magazine Supplement
1000 Our Press Today
1005 Songs and Music
1100 Closedown
1.30 News on FM Service

Evening
2100 Opening
2102 Bits and Bytes
2130 News
2145 Point of View
2155 Songs and Music
2200 Facts About Zionism
2215 Magazine Special
2245 Daily Programme
2300 Peil Mell
2400 Closedown

BBC World Services

0600 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Radio Newsworld
30 Religious Service
0100 News Summary followed by 2nd and 3rd World of Towns — Part 1: 16th A Confederacy of Dunces — Part 2: 23rd Let Saints on Earth in Concert Sing: 30th After Henry.
30 (30th only) I Heard You Say So
45 Rhythms of the Sun (ex 30th A Schubert Anthology)
0200 World News
09 Commentary
15 Peabody's Choice

30 Science in Action
0300 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Good Books
30 Anything Goes
0400 Newsday
30 Behind the Wall
45 Reflections
50 Waiteguide
0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours, News Summary
30 Nature Notebook
45 Revolving of the Week
0600 Newsday
30 Israel (ex 2nd and 9th)
0700 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours, News Summary
30 Can Communism Cope? (ex 2nd and 9th From Coca to Cocaine)
0800 World News
09 Reflections
15 Good Books
30 Anything Goes
0900 World News
09 British Press Review
15 Good Books
30 Financial News (ex 2nd and 9th From Coca to Cocaine) followed by Sports Roundup
45 Peabody's Choice
1000 News Summary
30 The Vintage Chart Show
1100 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Tech Talk
30 The Ken Bruce Show (ex 2nd Album time)
1200 Radio Newsworld
15 Brain of Britain 1988
45 Sports Roundup
1300 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours, News Summary
30 Anything Goes
1400 Outlook, opening with 5-minute News
45 Science Fiction Stories (ex 2nd and 9th From Coca to Cocaine)
1500 Radio Newsworld
45 Weber (ex 2nd and 9th The Seven Ages of Man)

FM Services

0800 Easy Listening
0930 News
1040 Easy Listening
1100 Songs and Music
1200 Easy Listening
1330 News
1400 Classical Music
1600 Easy Listening
1700 Latin American Hour
1800 Pops
1900 Heiter Sketches
2000 Pops
2130 News
2145 Pops
2300 Jazz Sound
2300 Easy Listening
2400 Instrumental Music
0200 Closedown

Urdu

1900 Opening
1910 Bihreen Qaul
1916 Programme Preview
1920 Songs
1935 Press Report
1940 Ismailiyat: Daur-e-Hazir
2000 News
2020 Songs
2040 Humare Mehmaan
2100 Closedown

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Boushabri Gallery
Watercolor paintings by Yugoslav artist Jivica Prodanovic is open at the Boushabri Gallery, Salem Al Mubarak St, Salmiya, from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4 to 8.40 pm until June 9.

THEATRE

Bengali Cultural Society
The Society will present "Bichhan," a Hindi drama based on a story by Bengali novelist Mahasweta Devi, on June 2, 3 and June 9, 10, 7.30 pm, at the Mousetrap Theatre. The play is part of celebration of the 40th Indian independence anniversary. For reservations contact 3903976; 3901806; 5621379.

100 Rhythms
A musical show featuring Reem Youssef Kelani will be presented in the Grand Ballroom, Regency Palace Hotel, on June 2, Thursday. Tickets — KD10 including dinner. Produced and directed by Glenis Muckle and Kerry Langley. All proceeds will be donated to the British charity Medical Aid for Palestinians to help Dr Pauline Cutting, OBE, and her team, to provide medical care for refugees. For reservations call 5718143; 5387755; 2627003; 5330934.

KLT
KLT's musical Brigadoon opens with a gala performance on June 1, 7.30 pm. Further performances are at 5.30 pm on June 2, 3; and at 8.15 pm on June 7, 8 and 9. Tickets — KD3. Children — KD2. For reservations call 3983724.

Kuwait Singers
"Songs for a Summer Evening" is the title of a concert by the Singers. It will be held on May 31 and June 1 at the UAS, Salwa. Tickets — KD 2. For reservations ring 3940770 ext. 57; 5384873; 5740627 (answering service).

Sounds Great

Sounds Great, a pop-rock musical, will be performed at Salmiya Cinema on June 10, 5pm and 8 pm. The show will feature Juke Box band with June Stevenson and Top Ranks with Adolf. Farewell appearance of Paul Fraser. Introducing Walid Al Nimer who will dance to Michael Jackson's top hit "Bad". Produced and directed by Ken Winston. Tickets — KD.5. For reservations ring 5740256/7; 5516991; 5758870.

CINEMA

Kuwait Cine Club
"Three Classic Evenings" will be held at the Kuwait Cine Club on May 30, May 31 and June 1. The programme is as follows:

MONDAY: Un Chien Andalou (1928, French, D. Salvador Dali; 16 min.) Corrida Interdite (French, 1958, 10 min.); Two Men and a Wardrobe (Polish, 1958, Roman Polanski, 15 min.); The Fat and the Lean (French, 1931, 55 min. D. Jean Cocteau).

TUESDAY: Do It Yourself Cartoon Kit (British, 6 min. Keith Lerner); Enter Hamlet (US, 1964, 4 min. Fred Mogubgub); Pappeno (W. Germany, 11 min., D. Lotta Reiniger); The Fly (Yugoslav, 1966, 10 min. Alexander Marz); Bags (Polish, 1967, 9 min. Tadeusz Wilkosz); The Bespoke Overcoat (UK, 1955, 33 mins. Jack Clayton); The Stranger Left No Card (UK, 1953, 25 mins. D. Wendy Toye).

WEDNESDAY: Act Without Words (French, 1958, 10 min.; D. Guido Bettioli & Brune); The Stringbean (French, 5 min. D. Edouard Sechan); The Magician (Polish, 12 min. D. Tad. Makarczynski); Labyrinth (Polish, 14 min. D. Jan Leinica); Renaissance (French, 1963, 10 min. D. Walerian Borowicz); La Jete (French, 1962, 30 mins. D. Chris Marker).

All films will be screened at 7.30 pm at the Kuwait Cine Club premises, Bneid Al Qar. 8

Sheriff Al Radhi St., nr. Indian Embassy.

SOCIAL

Badesik Re-union
The Bangladesh Diploma Engineers Society in Kuwait, Badesik, will hold an Eid re-union and a cultural programme, with dinner, on Friday, June 10, at the Meridian's Banquet Hall, 6 pm. All Bangladesh diploma engineers can take part. Tel: Altafur Rahman — 9015166; Anwar Ali — 4571603.

NRI Meeting

The Non-Resident Indians (NRI) Annual General Meeting will be held at IAC, Fun-aites, on June 7, 7.45 pm. All NRI members and their wives are welcome. State Bank of India officials will give a talk on capital markets. A contributory dinner will follow.

Players Ball

Kuwait Players "end of season ball" on Thursday, June 9, KD.7 per person. For details phone 5330934; 5613465; 5611546.

Kuwait Players

The Players will hold their social get-together on Wednesday, June 1. Tel: 5330934; 5613465.

SPORTS

PBAK General Meeting

The Philippine Bowlers Association in Kuwait, PBAK, will hold their second general meeting on Friday, June 3, at Mabuhay Restaurant at 5.30 pm. They will discuss the forthcoming men's and women's doubles, membership drive, bowling clinics and other activities. For details contact Sarah Macarimbang on 484-3447.

5th Annual Race

The final 'captains' meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 31, 6.30 pm in Messilah Beach Hotel. All team captains must attend. Final date for late entrants.

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HEALTH WARNING: SMOKING IS A MAJOR CAUSE OF CANCER AND DISEASES OF THE LUNGS, HEART AND ARTERIES.



TWO Palestinian boys on a donkey ride past a Sherman tank on Saturday which was placed along the roadside as a war memorial to a battle during the 1967 Six Day War. (Reuter wirephoto)



FRENCH Prime Minister Michel Rocard waves to supporters during an electoral meeting at Les Mureaux, west of Paris on Saturday. President Francois Mitterrand's socialists are heading for a massive victory in next month's general election. (Reuter wirephoto)



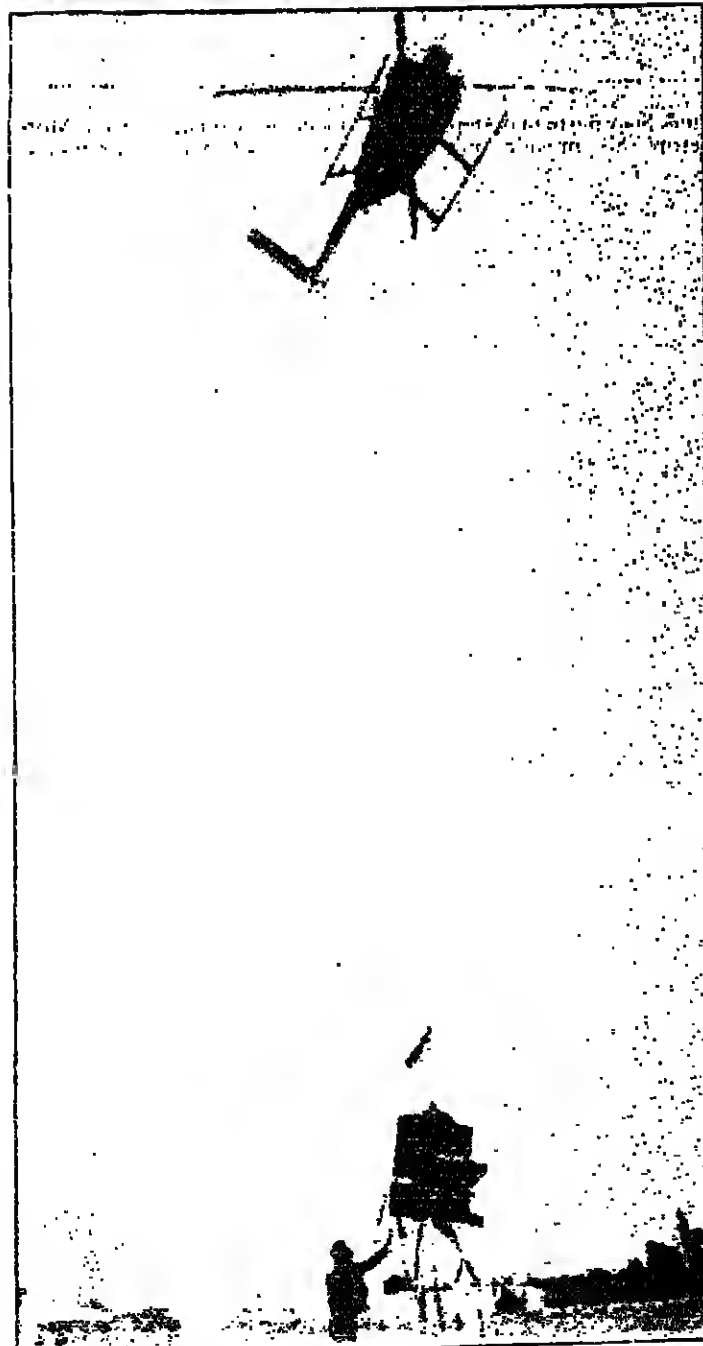
ON THE eve of President Reagan's visit, three young Russians enjoy a warm Saturday evening out in central Moscow. Behind them is the Hotel Ukraine, one of seven Stalinist buildings. (Reuter wirephoto)



A GROUP of Tamil refugees sits quietly in a local gymnasium (left) in Hamburg, West Germany, awaiting their fate and food supplies donated by the Red Cross after Hamburg police discovered an attempt to smuggle 264 Asians to Canada. Uwe Peters (above left), owner and captain of the Lupa is escorted away from his ship by Hamburg police. He is suspected of attempting to smuggle the refugees to Canada. (Reuter wirephoto)



MEMBERS of the Soviet Union's top parliamentary body applaud the unanimous ratification of the INF missile treaty with the US in Moscow on Saturday, clearing the way for a showpiece ceremony at the upcoming summit between the two superpowers. (Reuter wirephoto)



A HELICOPTER lifts a 300-pound piano before dropping it to the ground from 100 feet in Santa Rosa, California on Sunday as part of a party for a man who died three years ago. Hearing the sound of a flying piano crash to the earth was a fantasy of the deceased man. (Reuter wirephoto)



CONTRA military commander, Enrique Bermudez answers questions about his role as an officer in the late Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza's National Guard on Saturday, during a press conference at the end of three days of peace talks with the Sandinistas. He is flanked by Contra directors Aristides Sanchez (left), Alfredo Cesar (right) and Pedro Joaquin C. Amorro Jr. (far right). (Reuter wirephoto)



WHITE HOUSE Chief of Staff Howard Baker leaves Andrews Air Force Base on Saturday for Finland carrying the formal INF treaty document President Reagan will sign in time for his Moscow summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. (Reuter wirephoto)



MOLLOKO, the first California condor conceived and hatched in captivity, receives some preening from a hand puppet designed to look like an adult condor at San Diego's Wild Animal Park in California. (Reuter wirephoto)



MALAY martial arts practitioners (left) perform a shadow display on the wall of a shopping centre at Marina Square in Singapore during the start of this year's Festival of Arts celebration. (Reuter wirephoto)



PILOT Dick Rutan holds a model of the Pond Racer aircraft, designed by his brother Burt to be the world's fastest piston-powered aircraft, against a mural of the F4U Corsair WWII fighter plane. Rutan announced that he will attempt to break the current world speed record sometime after the craft's first flight in the spring of 1989. (Reuter wirephoto)



A group of polar bears huddle around an opening in the ice near Svalbard island in the Barents sea.

Polar bear, Arctic king, rules in peace

By Nicholas Doughty

LONGYEARBYEN, Spitzbergen. (Reuters) The polar bear is enjoying a reign of unprecedented peace and prosperity in its Arctic domain.

The hunters who once killed scores of the powerful beasts every year for their highly-prized skins on the Spitzbergen archipelago, 1,300 km (800 miles) from the North Pole, have long disappeared since the polar bear became an internationally protected species in 1973.

But the feeling that human settlers have for the regal animals in their midst remains one of respect tinged with fear.

"The polar bear has never stopped being a dangerous animal, even if we love it for its beauty and grace," said Arthur Tjelmeland, a teacher at the small school in Longyearbyen — a town on the archipelago's main island, called Spitzbergen — home to some 1,200 Norwegian settlers.

"We always carry guns when we leave the town," he said. "You have to treat the bear with respect. Outside our little wooden houses, he is the absolute monarch — and he can be a very cruel one."

Environmentalists estimate

that there are now between 4,000 and 5,000 polar bears living on Spitzbergen. They feed chiefly on seals, Arctic reindeer or the occasional beached whale as they roam an area of 63,000 square km (24,000 sq miles).

"When hunting was banned 15 years ago, there were only about 2,500 left," said Leif Eldring, the governor of Spitzbergen. "They were dangerously close to extinction here."

Norway rules Spitzbergen, several hundred miles north of the mainland, under the terms of an international treaty signed by 41 nations in the 1920s. Any of the signatories have the right to establish settlements on Spitzbergen, although so far only Norway and the Soviet Union have done so.

Eldring said some people wanted to start hunting the polar bear again.

"They want the skins, they want the excitement. But I don't think it will happen. Norwegian policy is clear on that at the moment," he said. "About five have been shot so far this year, but only self-defence."

The animals rarely venture into Longyearbyen but a strong high fence was put round the children's playground in 1982 after a polar bear loped past with a lean and hungry look. It

was shot.

Hunters, living in primitive wooden huts amid the vast mountains of snow and ice, began to trap and kill the bears in large numbers after World War One.

One method involved setting up a long, open-ended box with a loaded rifle in it. A piece of meat was placed at one end, in front of the barrel, and attached by a wire to the trigger.

Curious A polar bear, by nature a curious animal, would sniff around the box, find the meat and try to pull it out between its jaws. The gun would then go off and the hunter could then approach and pick up the carcass. The method was banned in 1970 as inhumane.

The polar bear is also found in Greenland, Alaska, Canada and the Soviet Union. The male can weigh up to 700 kg (1,500 pounds) and measure up to three metres (nine feet) in length. Females are smaller.

The polar bear is well-adapted to swimming and to the bitter cold of the Arctic. Its long neck, narrow shoulders and powerful haunches enable it to swim quickly among the ice floes in pursuit of seals, while it has a layer of fur so thick that it can lie out on the ice for hours without feeling the extreme

winter cold.

But it is also surprisingly fast for such a big animal, managing speeds of up to 60 km an hour (37 mph) in short bursts.

The approach of summer can bring out the worst in polar bears. Only some of the snow and ice on the islands melts, but the seals escape in the ice-free water. The bears can then go hungry for weeks at a time.

It was in the summer of 1977 that a polar bear last killed someone here, an Austrian tourist who was camping. "He was with some friends, who were in another tent," Eldring explained. "All they could do was watch as he was eaten."

Researchers have in recent years captured polar bears and fitted transmitters around their necks to trace their movements. A few have been carried on ice floes as far as Greenland or the northern coast of Norway.

Hans Stoen, an official at Norway's Environment Ministry who has worked in polar research for many years, was sceptical that hunters would be allowed to shoot polar bears again.

"There are those who would like to hunt again," he said. "But if we can't protect this majestic animal, then we have to ask what we can protect on our earth."

WITH over two million supporters, WWF is one of the world's four most popular charities, according to a Wall Street Journal Poll.

A small group of conservationists founded it in 1961. They wanted their children and their grandchildren to be able to live in productive harmony with nature. Their main tasks were to raise funds for conservation and to heighten public awareness of the urgent need to preserve our environment.

From the beginning, very talented and well-known people were involved. WWF's founder chairman was Sir Peter Scott, an ornithologist, gliding champion, painter, broadcaster, Olympic sailor and the son of Captain Scott of the Antarctic. And its President is Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh.

Today WWF is the largest worldwide private nature conservation organisation. Since 1961, it has channelled over US\$100 million into more than 4,000 projects in 130 countries. WWF have saved animals and plants from extinction and helped to conserve natural areas all over the world.

In its early years WWF was best known for its campaigns to save animals. It launched a project to save the tiger in India and it helped to save the giant



The Arabian gazelle: in danger

World Wildlife Foundation takes action

Arabian oryx, gazelle in danger of extinction

panda in China. But WWF's purposes have grown over the years. It has moved increasingly towards the conservation of nature as it relates to people. A healthy environment for wildlife is also a healthy environment for people. Protecting forested hillsides in the Tropics, for example, prevents soil erosion and provides water for farmers. There are also projects to save the wetlands, savannahs and to combat acid rain.

WWF's involvement in the Middle East

For thousands of years the Middle East had a magnificent wildlife heritage. Antelopes, gazelles, lions and leopards were born free to roam rich and varied landscapes. Eagles, vultures and hawks sailed the air currents.

But in the last hundred years and especially with the advent of motorised transport, hunting parties have wreaked havoc. Once plentiful species were soon classed as endangered. Some were declared extinct.

Fortunately, most Middle Eastern countries saw the danger in time. Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Oman in particular reacted with a series of far-reaching measures.

In 1966, the Royal Society for the Conservation in Jordan was formed. Its main aim was to create a series of wildlife reserves. The most important is Shammari, 150 km from the capital of Jordan, Amman, on the border with Saudi Arabia.

In 1986, Saudi Arabia, equally concerned, created its own organisation, The Royal Commission for the Conservation of Wildlife.

At the same time, Oman launched an important series of conservation projects.

WWF and the Arabian peninsula have had a long and fruitful association in conservation. In 1963 the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and WWF joined in Operation Oryx to save one of the penin-

sula's most graceful animals from extinction.

Animals in danger of extinction

The Arabian oryx, a beautiful species of antelope, was once widespread in all Arabia from Syria to Rub Al Khali. But ruthless hunting parties from neighbouring countries brought it perilously close to extinction. In 1972, visiting hunters in Oman shot the last wild oryx.

Yet there were people who cared. In 1963, WWF and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia joined to launch Operation Oryx, which aimed at saving the Arabian oryx from extinction.

The late King Ibn Saud don-

ated four animals to WWF to strengthen the World Herd which had been established by various nature organisations for captive breeding. The project has been highly successful. There are now several herds in captivity in the Arabian peninsula, in the United States and in Europe. Oryx have also been returned to the wild in Oman where game wardens from the Harasis tribe guard them from hunters in a bid to prevent the events of 1972.

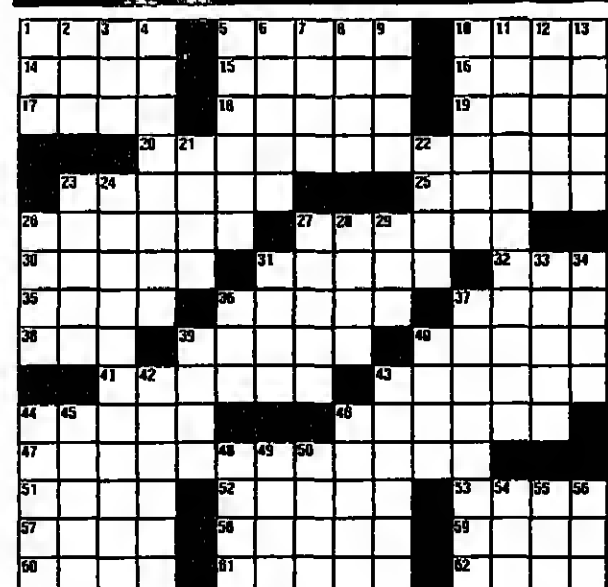
Another animal in danger of extinction is the Arabian gazelle.

Fortunately, concerned people have taken action. His Royal Majesty King Khalid has given refuge to a herd of three species of Arabian gazelle on his farm in Thumama near Riyadh. When this herd grows, he will give a number of animals to the National Wildlife Research Centre which is situated near the village of Al Sudhaira. Here more gazelle will be bred pending their return to the wild.



The Arabian oryx: threatened

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Trepidation
 - 5 Bridge coups
 - 10 RR stops
 - 14 Alencon product
 - 15 City on the Saale
 - 16 England's "Great Commoner"
 - 17 Son of Zeus and Hera
 - 18 Be of use
 - 19 Novel by Melville
 - 20 We'll know eventually
 - 23 Elevés milieux
 - 25 M. Zola
 - 26 Venerates
 - 27 Workers' rewards
 - 30 Chills
 - 31 Ingenuous
 - 32 Mass of hair
 - 35 Sevar
 - 36 Mother-of-pearl
 - 37 Relocate
 - 38 August time in D.C.
 - 39 Springtime flairs
 - 40 Student's howler
 - 41 Ha often has a fit
 - 43 Composed
 - 44 Rastriat
 - 46 Eels
 - 47 Tempus fugit, in a way
 - 51 Explorer Tasman
 - 52 Climbing vine
 - 53 Seafarer
 - 57 Tease with taunting words
 - 58 Music's Larry —
 - 59 Dash
 - 60 Declares
 - 61 Ranks
- DOWN**
- 1 Neighbor of Ga.
 - 2 Corn unit
 - 3 King beater
 - 4 Establishad again
 - 5 Mortifies
 - 6 Wishes
 - 7 "There ought to be"
 - 8 Half of MMCIV
 - 9 Peddler
 - 10 — two strokes: First tee request
 - 11 Adaga for businessmen
 - 12 Bikini, for one
 - 13 Want away silently
 - 21 Martinique at Guadeloupe
 - 22 — majesty
 - 23 Sided
 - 24 "We should — heart-throbs": P.J. Bailey
 - 26 Rhine feeder
 - 27 Mario Andreoli
 - 28 Haughtiness
 - 29 "Got You Under My Skin": Porter song
 - 31 Alliance acronym
 - 32 Hot spots
 - 34 — Marquette
 - 36 Nothing
 - 37 Bogs
 - 39 Kin's partner
 - 40 Golf's
 - 41 Patty —
 - 42 Anoints
 - 43 Detection devices
 - 44 Party extras
 - 45 Fibula's neighbor
 - 46 Extracted galena
 - 48 Woe is me!
 - 49 Kind of bet or board
 - 50 Corduroy rib
 - 54 Porter
 - 55 Fond Du —, Wisc.
 - 56 Explosive initials
- ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**
- ASTO SAND SPAIN
SEAN ALOE LEAVE
PANTALOON INLET
ILK BONNY MOOR
REELING MORASS
ERRED TOES LIFE
NEPTUNE ETION
HOST LUTES BONO
EXPO ABUSERS
RYE RIAS HEEDS
OMAHAN SPONDIEE
ORIAN ANTON ILL
ARISE FORRESTALL
MONTE ALAE RENE
INGE RAPS OIOR

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

TOO MANY FINESSES

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
 ♠ A 4 2
 ♥ 3 2
 ♦ J 8 6 5 2
 ♣ Q 5 4

EAST
 ♠ 8 6 3
 ♥ 9 8 7
 ♦ K 4
 ♣ 10 9 8 7 2

SOUTH
 ♠ K 9 7
 ♥ A Q J 10 5 4
 ♦ A 3
 ♣ A J

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1 ♥ Pass 1 NT Pass
 4 ♥ Pass Pass Pass
 Opening lead: Queen of ♠

Entries are precious gems. We are continually surprised by the cavalier attitude many players display toward such exquisite possessions. To make our point, we would like you to cover the East and West hands with your thumbs and decide which finesse declarer should take when he gets to dummy for the one and only time with the ace of spades.

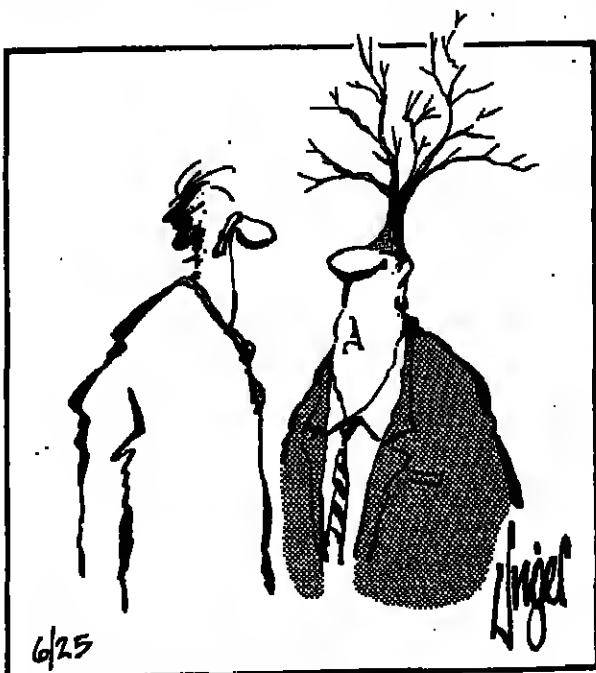
South's choice of four hearts as his rebid is reasonable, but we do

feel that one other bid should have been considered—a jump to three no trump. That contract would have posed no difficulty, regardless of the opening lead.

If you answered that declarer should use his entry to the table to take either rounded-suit finesse, you have missed the point of the hand. Declarer has 10 tricks available if dummy's lone entry is put to good use rather than squandered as an entry for a finesse.

Declarer should win the opening lead in hand, cash the ace of trumps and then play ace of clubs followed by the jack. The defenders are helpless. The best they can do is win the king of clubs and persevere with spades. But now declarer can win the ace, discard one of his side-suit losers and then revert to trumps. Declarer will score two spade tricks, five trumps, one diamond and two clubs no matter what.

Note that it would be wrong for declarer to try to draw more than one round of trumps before playing on clubs. The defenders will win the second trump and force out the ace of spades before South has set up a second club trick, and he will be forced to rely on the club finesse for his contract.



"I had a full head of leaves when I was your age."

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**
 There will be a great deal of doubt and some uncertainty today. You should do all you can to avoid creating further complications. Try to think a little longer before you say what is on your mind. Be sincere.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**
 You will have to ensure that others are not plotting against you. Your emotions are liable to get the better of you, so do all you can to be cool and calm. Make sure you do not drink to excess. Be a little more optimistic.
- Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)**
 You will have to do your utmost to avoid tension and conflict. If you leave something until later it will get more complicated, so do it now. Read again what you have written. Be reliable.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)**
 You should avoid jumping to conclusions. Something you have been putting off cannot be delayed any longer without serious consequences. You may well have some good luck but there is no point in relying upon it.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**
 If you try to tell a lie you are likely to be found out. You will be able to do something a little more positive. You should allow sufficient time to deal with a personal matter. Be reasonable.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)**
 You will be able to deal with a problem which has eluded you hitherto. Make sure you make up for a late night. Try to use persuasion rather than attempting force. Be sensible.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)**
 Your finances are not quite as good as you had thought they were, so try to spend less. The Moon's influence will help you to meet your commitments. You should avoid taking too much for granted just now. Be conscientious.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**
 Something you are learning will prove not to be quite so easy but you should persevere. You should not allow your emotions to overwhelm you. Leave yourself time just to sit and think for a while.
- Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)**
 You will have a good opportunity but it requires swift action if you do not want to miss it. You should not exceed any speed limits nor should you try too many shortcuts.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)**
 Too great reliance on credit is to be avoided at all costs. You should not try to have the last word and you should not be quite so insistent.
- Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)**
 Mars' influence will help you to draw the right conclusions. If you have oversteered do not worry, instead try to cut back in future. You should try to look at things from a broader base.
- Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 18)**
 You are subject to favourable influences but hard work is still the order of the day. You will be better able to make your voice heard. Do not expect others to do just what you would like them to do.



Moroccan nomads scatter pesticide-laced grain in a bid to stop a swarm of desert locusts.

ROME: The biblical "years of famine" find no end in Africa's Sahel, the drought-stricken band of savanna in western Africa. Barring a miracle, experts say, the region is in for its worst locust plague in three decades.

Following the heavy drought of 1983 to 1985 came rain, and after the rain came the hungry locusts, swarms of grasshoppers that can devour vast areas of cropland and pasture in a day.

Swarms attack and devastate areas as big as 50 square kilometres, leaving a brown moonscape in their wake.

Experts at the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organisation warn that a locust plague is due in the Sahel and other parts of western Africa this June and July, an onslaught rivaling the plague of 1954.

Experts say that efforts have been made over the past two years to combat the spread of locusts in the region. But two things stand in the way of suc-

Plague of locusts threaten Africa

A disaster is in the making in Africa. Carola Dittmer explains why the fight against the locusts may be doomed to fail.

cess: armed tribal conflicts and a lack of suitable pesticides.

Dieldrin, derived from DDT, was effective for years in keeping locusts under control. It killed swarming adults and larva alike and saved fields from devastation.

But DDT and its related products have been withdrawn from use as harmful to human health, and dieldrin's replacements, while easier on the environment, are less potent as weapons against locusts.

The newer pesticides kill only insects that are touched by the spray. Locusts and larva that escape the spray survive to eat crops again. And sprayings must be made more frequently than before.

To be effective, the spraying needs to be done from the air.

This year's plague finds its breeding grounds in the north of Mauritania where the 13-year-old Sahara conflict has hampered preventive measures.

Unusually damp weather,

favourable to baby locusts, has contributed to their spread over an area of 5,000 square kilometres. Spraying has done little to stop them and they have fanned out to Morocco, Algeria and Libya.

Experts from around the world have been alarmed to the latest threat.

About half of the infested territory has been sprayed in Mauritania. In Morocco, some 650 square kilometres have been treated in the M'Hamid and Taouz areas, while 900 square kilometres were sprayed in Algeria in the Tindouf, Adrar and Bechar areas in March.

Smaller infestations have been treated in Tunisia, near Borj Al Hadra, and in Libya's Ghadames area.

FAO experts fear, however, that it may be too late to prevent a repetition of the region's disastrous 1954 plague, in spite of appeals to donor nations for technical aid, pesticides, small planes and road vehicles.

dpa Features

Swedes hug a tree to defy builders

By Andrew Steele

GOTHENBURG, Sweden. (Reuters): If you want to annoy a Swedish road builder, hug a tree.

In recent months, militant environmentalists have taken to Sweden's forests, chained themselves to trees and halted or delayed bulldozers and forest-clearing machines extending the country's network of motorways.

Even the chilly Nordic winter has failed to budge the tree huggers, so dubbed by the national media.

They have become a symbol for the radical fringe of a thriving green movement, already one of Europe's strongest.

It is a matter of saving the environment. It is our moral duty to protest, said novelist Sara Lidman, interviewed recently while chained to a tree in western Sweden.

The favourite target for the tree buggers is the multi-billion dollar dream of a European industrial lobby — the four-nation Scandinavian link (Scanlink).

Scanlink is a railway, motorway, bridge and tunnel network which would start in Oslo, cut down the west of Sweden, hop over the Danish islands of Zealand and Funen on to the Danish mainland and then on to the autobahns and railway systems of West Germany near Hamburg.

The tree-huggers are determined that the project as a whole, which they say will pollute and destroy sensitive environments in western Sweden, should never see the light of day.

They argue that Scanlink would dramatically increase traffic volumes into Scandinavia, with subsequent rises in exhaust and pollution levels.

These cause acid rain, cited by scientists as a major cause of tree deaths in Sweden, a country with some 280,000 sq km (90,000 sq miles) under forest.

"This road must be stopped. The conservation of the environment is far too important to be destroyed by motorway construction," said Lidman, one of the tree hugging movement's most prominent supporters.

The Scanlink proposers, on the other hand, are convinced the project would pose no serious environmental problems.

"Environmental aspects of the scheme will require further detailed study, but a joint Danish-Swedish government study into the viability of the project raised no major environmental problems," the group said in a policy statement.

The tree huggers operate by setting up camp overnight in forest areas earmarked for clearing and staying put when the bulldozers try to start rolling in the morning.

True to the customary Swedish desire to avoid confrontation, the roadbuilders tend to go away, leaving the tree huggers to shiver and obstruct for up to a week at a time.

But sooner or later police are summoned by impatient councils, and dozens of tree huggers have been fined for obstructing the police.

One of the most active groups operates against a motorway under construction in Bohuslan, a dramatically beautiful coastal province which stretches 150 km (90 miles) from Gothenburg to the Norwegian border.

One of Bohuslan's main towns is Stenungsund, where the district court has seen a regular procession of tree hugging prosecutions.

"Road-building spells disaster for the forests of this area, half of the trees around here are seriously affected and one in 10 is dying," said Birgit Nielsen, one of 10 activists fined recently at Stenungsund.

The tree huggers hope to mobilise enough public opinion against Scanlink to ensure its permanent abandonment.



The thin line between the rich and poor in a Nairobi suburb

Making money out of rubbish

From slum children to company directors, people are making a living from Nairobi rubbish. But what's to be done with the rubbish that no one wants, the rubbish that is dumped at the feet of the city's poor? One plan is to turn it into compost for farmers.

By Wona Mwita

NAIROBI: Only a stranger would have been forgiven for asking why the four boys, aged between 10 and 15, were lugging garbage away from the refuse dump in Korogocho, a Nairobi slum.

Each boy lugged a slimy polythene bag on his back. From their excited chatter and fast gait, it was clear they were carrying something valuable.

"Why are those boys carrying rubbish away from where it belongs?" the stranger asked. "Rubbish?" a Korogocho resident retorted impatiently. "They're not carrying rubbish; they're carrying bottles and tins — for sale."

Every day children rummage through heaps of rotting food and every imaginable form of domestic and industrial refuse. Disease-carrying houseflies swarm, and mosquitoes find ideal breeding grounds in stagnant water in broken bottles and upturned tins.

But the kids are making a few pennies. Mindless of the health hazards, they see, the tips as goldmines. And far away in the richer parts of town, rubbish is also a gold-mine for Mr Terry D'Cruz, who runs a private collection business.

Mr D'Cruz's company, Domestic Refuse Disposal Service Limited, went into (unauthorised) operation last June collecting garbage twice weekly in the high income, low density suburbs of Lavinton, Hurlingham, Westlands and Parklands. A D'Cruz truck collects 5 to 10 tonnes of garbage a week.

Mr D'Cruz says his company is charging the equivalent of £4 a month per flat, maisonette or house for collecting the rubbish. He has 300 clients at present, but says he could serve 5,000.

Where will he find his clients? The company will extend its service to hotels and restaurants, says D'Cruz, who also plans to collect garbage from more and more low-density areas (read "rich") leaving

the City Commission to deal with the highly-populated areas tread "poor".

This is good private business. But where does rich people's garbage go? To the slums, where it becomes a city problem. Nairobi's main dumping ground is a series of abandoned quarries in Karibangi and Dondora, which are among the city's most highly-populated housing estates.

There the rubbish is often burned, producing dense, brown, foul-smelling smoke which drifts through the slums on the prevailing easterly winds — choking the shanty dwellers of Korogocho, Ngomongo, New Grogan and Highridge.

Within the slums themselves, narrow alleys between the hundreds of mud huts are littered with garbage. Heaps of vegetable waste are everywhere. So are human faeces, usually from babies who cannot use the communal toilets. Flies hover around the rubbish. People step gingerly through the alleys trying to avoid the worst of it. Chickens peck for their food from it. Goats eat whatever appeals to them.

In dry weather, walking down the alleys is bearable. Come the wet season, and the situation becomes a nightmare. Thousands of people tread the ground into a squelchy mess of mud and refuse, a strong stench of decay fills the confined alleys and the air buzzes with multiplying flies and mosquitoes.

Nairobi environmentalists are calling for an effective waste disposal system. But what is this city of 1.3 million people to do? Like most big cities in developing countries, Nairobi is growing fast. As unemployment and landlessness in Kenya forces people to move to the city in search of work, the city becomes bigger, more crowded and dirtier. Most of the new arrivals live in haphazard shanties between residential areas and industrial sites.

In the residential estates, many households have yet to own even a dustbin. So the residents convert a section of

their compounds into a dumping site, with the hope that the garbage will be picked up by the garbage boys.

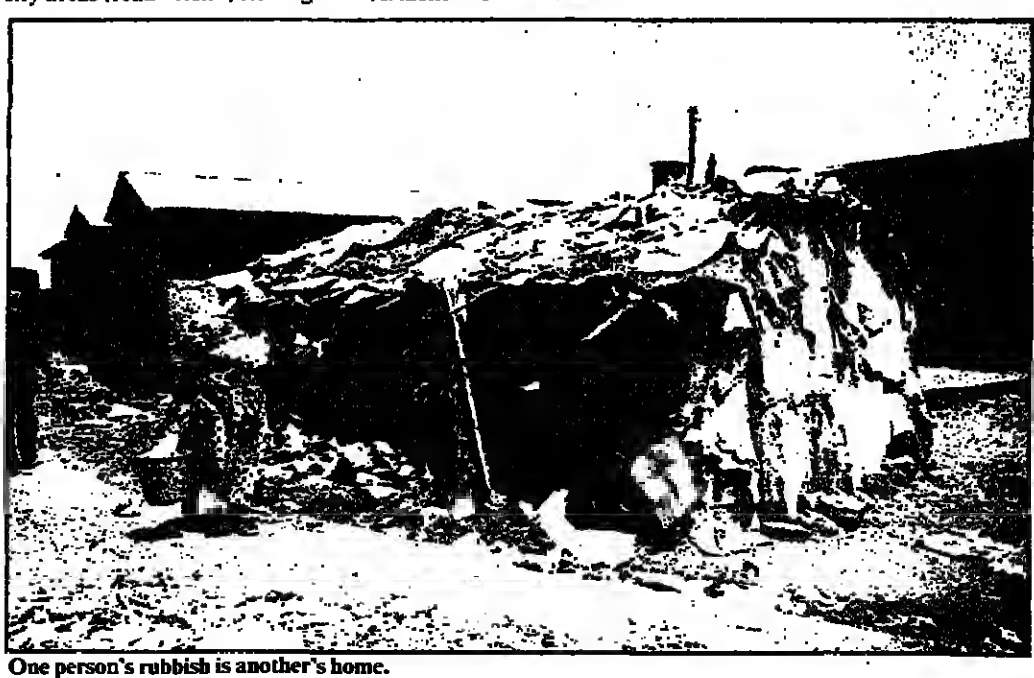
As in other cities, the local authority has not been able to provide adequate services to the growing population. The acting town clerk, Mr J. Musyoka-Annan, says the area under the jurisdiction of the City Commission has expanded "four to five times" in the last 20 years. City residents have long complained about uncollected garbage. Two years ago the complaints became so frequent that Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi appointed a director to oversee garbage collection in the city. But today, two years later, Brigadier Wilson Shigoli, the Director of Special Operations, is still struggling with the problem.

Late last year the commission, which is the city's local authority, considered digging deep holes in each estate in which residents would dump rubbish to form compost. Brigadier Shigoli said the move would reduce transportation costs of moving garbage from the estates, while benefiting farmers around the city. The commission would assign permanent staff to cover the garbage with a layer of soil as soon as it started emitting a foul smell, Brigadier Shigoli said.

In early March this year the Nairobi City Commission convened a task force to look into refuse collection. Mr Annan said the commission had recognised the need for "efficient refuse collection" and was looking into ways of "decentralising" its services to city residents and private enterprise.

Currently the commission is unable even to pay the salaries of some of its employees. The only solution it sees is for some enterprising entrepreneurs to invent some magical way to turn all the rubbish, and not just a little of it, into gold. Enterprising businessmen should apply to the City Commission, Nairobi.

Panos Features



One person's rubbish is another's home.

AVAILABLE
255 PACK

**ROTHMANS
REALLY
SATISFIES**

THE BEST TOBACCO MONEY CAN BUY

Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

ANDY CAPP

By Smith



BUSINESS & FINANCE

'Exchange rates are certainly a key variable'

Baker's proposals designed to mute criticism

WASHINGTON, May 29: The US Treasury Secretary, James A. Baker III, whose plan for international economic coordination has been in motion nearly three years, may encounter resistance from the West Germans, British and French at the Toronto economic summit next month, according to International Herald Tribune.

These nations, at least, see some adjustments needed in the coordination process set in motion in 1985.

Baker, however, remains convinced that he has placed the world economy on a much more solid footing and will move at Toronto to secure a few more refinements in the system as a final achievement for the Reagan administration.

Changes

In a speech in Paris last week before the Council on Foreign Relations, he unveiled two changes to the process, which began in September 1985 with an agreement in New York among the United States and its four major trading partners to manage exchange rates.

The goal at that time was to

drive down an inflated dollar.

The group included the United States, West Germany, Japan, France and England, Canada and Italy joined later.

Baker's purpose in outlining additional areas for potential economic coordination at this time appeared to be twofold:

● French authorities, among others, continue to raise the prospect of more sweeping monetary reforms.

● Many, including the president of the West German central bank, Karl Otto Pohl, have criticised the group's process of putting too much weight on managing exchange rates without paying enough attention to underlying economic conditions.

Baker contended in his Paris speech that international economic cooperation had broad enough support to carry it well beyond the terms of current administrations in the seven countries.

Baker made a point of conceding that revision of the international monetary system is not simply a matter of exchange rates or reserve assets.

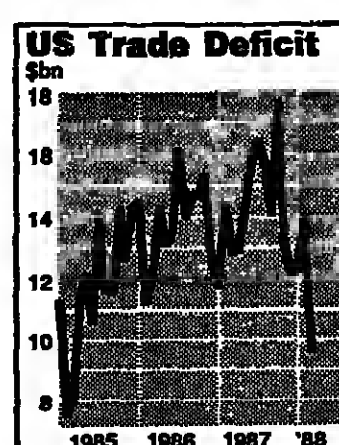
"Exchange rates are certainly a key variable," he said. "Ultimately, however, the test of an international monetary system is whether it can help foster an open and growing economy."

He said that US efforts to reduce its budget deficits and become more competitive, as well as Japanese and West German efforts to reduce reliance on export-led growth, can be traced to a successful political mechanism that is still young.

Steps

The Group of Five of 1985 led to a decline of about 50 per cent in the value of the dollar against the yen, and by nearly that much against leading European currencies. Although later in Paris in 1987 the major nations had to reverse their strategy to stabilise exchange rates, the decline set in motion in New York in 1985 is credited with helping to revive US manufacturing exports, the first step in reducing the trade deficit.

The more important of Baker's two new steps would be to set up monitoring zones for key economic indicators, such as economic growth and trade



balances. That would provide a precise test of whether each of the participating economies is keeping to the agreed economic policy path.

For example, if the United States agreed to try to achieve a goal of 3 per cent economic growth, the monitoring zone might be 2.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent. If actual results differed significantly, Baker explained, then consultation and possible action would be considered by the group.

The second step proposed by

Baker was to broaden the coordination discussion to include so-called structural reform, such as taxes, liberalisation of financial markets and deregulation of labour markets.

Until now, the group's ministers have focussed on macroeconomic issues: exchange rates, trade imbalances and economic growth. Increasingly, however, as last week's meeting of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development meeting in Paris indicated, experts are becoming convinced of the need for closer links between macro and micro economic policies.

Initiative

The British Chancellor of the Exchequer, Nigel Lawson, said in an OECD speech that economic growth can be stimulated by removing economic barriers and regulations.

"I have no doubt that supply-side reform, rather than macroeconomic adjustments, must today be the priority for all our countries," Lawson observed.

To meet the French initiative, Baker wants to keep the momentum going for what he considers

a more pragmatic coordination process, one that might have better financial-market acceptance. President Francois Mitterrand of France is likely to reiterate the call in Toronto for a new international monetary conference, perhaps patterned after the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference.

To meet the West German approach Baker would use the monitoring zones for key economic indicators in a shift from the present concentration on exchange rates.

Two years ago, at the Tokyo Economic Summit, participants agreed to follow up the New York accord by establishing multilateral surveillance of the seven economies, using a series of economic indicators. Many countries including West Germany, think such effort is hindering and cumbersome.

Some advocates of target zones for exchange rates remain dubious about the idea of monitoring zones. "The virtue of a reference range or target zone system," said C. Fred Bergsten, an economist, "is that it focuses on the one key variable through whose lens you can look at all other items."

Africa urged to achieve economic development through science

LAGOS, May 29: (Opecna): Prof. Emmanuel Emovon, Nigeria's Minister of Science and Technology, said on Thursday that Africa could gain tremendously by making science and technology, not just a mere instrument of academic interest, but a means towards achieving economic development.

Delivering a lecture here to mark the 25th anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), Emovon said that the use of science and technology for economic development should be pursued with vigour.

The minister, who spoke on "Science and Technology for Development — the Nigerian experience," noted that the approaches adopted for the resolution of technological problems in Nigeria could equally apply in most African countries because of their common colonial heritage and cultural similarities.

Ventures

He said that for large ventures "too expensive" for any one African country to undertake, co-operation would be the best approach.

Emovon pointed out that so far, African countries had "very forcefully expressed their determination to use science and technology to promote development, but have not often backed this up by making financial contributions" for the realisation of the goal.

"With the abundant supply of semi-skilled and unskilled labour in the continent," he said, "the need was for 'a package of technology that would take advantage of this resource'."

He said the "afflictions" on Africa, including disease, poor human resource development, debt strangulation, inadequate energy, poor communication system, were sufficient to make African nations seek a collective solution to their problems.

NTT tops Japanese businesses in '87 profits

TOKYO, May 29: (AP): Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. outstripped Nomura Securities to become Japan's top profit-maker in fiscal 1987, a company official said yesterday.

The company announced that its profits before taxes for fiscal 1987, which ended on March 31, as 496.7 billion yen (\$3.97 billion), a 38.8 per cent increase over its 1986 figures.

The profit was the highest earned by any corporation in Japan, according to NTT spokeswoman Ami Shimizu.

Increase

Nomura Securities Co., last year's leading profit maker, earned an estimated 493.8 billion yen (\$3.95 billion) for the fiscal year ending September 1987, a Nomura spokesman said.

NTT, which became a private company three years ago, attributed the increase in profits to steady growth in Japan's telecommunications market and expanding economic activity in Japan, including increases in personal spending, capital investments and public works expenditures.

Equities coming into favour

By Midas

THE Swiss Bank Corporation's latest investment reviews say that economic forecasts for most industrialised countries have been revised upwards. The reason behind this renewed optimism is that the negative effects of the October crash have proved to be far more limited than was originally feared. Even so, SBC points out that there are still a few worries overhanging the markets, namely inflation and fears that the US economy might be overheating.

However, SBC reports that

they feel more confident about equity investment and that selected stocks continue to show interesting trading potential.

Japan, in particular, looks very favourable. The Index passed 27,000 without hesitation and now looks set to reach 29,500 or 30,000 in the next quarter. Recommended sectors include engineering, electronics, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, department stores and construction materials. Fujitsu, Hitachi and Matsushita are among the individual shares that are recommended.

Germany also offers good opportunities for trading with

major price fluctuations in a generally flat market. For those with long term horizons, SBC recommends defensive holdings in major chemical companies like BASF and Henkel.

Canada is generally expected to benefit from the weak US dollar and there seems to be good profit potential for investments in particular resource-based companies such as Alcan, Consolidated Bathurst Inc or Laidlaw Transportation.

Among markets to avoid for the time being are France, Holland and the UK. The latter has stagnated for a while and, given the lack of any positive

market impulses, is likely to remain fairly level. Any new commitments should be limited to defensive sectors. So far as France is concerned, it is apparent that the continuing bear market is not suitable for long term commitments.

On weaker days, there may be opportunities for medium term selections.

So far as the bond markets are concerned, the rise in US dollar yields is placing the other international capital markets under strain. SBC recommends medium term maturities and continue to advise favouring European hard currency markets.

Ozal won't intervene to save banks

ANKARA, May 29: (Reuters): Prime Minister, Turgut Ozal, said today he would not intervene if any of Turkey's 60 banks collapsed because of changes in accounting rules.

"I am saying clearly I will not extend my hand for help to anyone. To help those who don't know their accounts means being unfair to those who work well," Ozal told a meeting of the Union of Chambers of Commerce (Tobb).

He said measures announced last Monday, forcing banks to declare non-performing loans and to make provisions for them were part of progress towards honest banking.

Result

"I don't care at all if, as a result, a few banks get into trouble. If they do, they do," Ozal said.

Several banks have been absorbed into the state banking sector this decade after collapsing under a burden of bad loans brought on by poor accounting and high interest rates.

Despite a recent improvement, some old-established banks still have a high burden of non-performing loans.

All Coskun, expected to be re-elected Tobb president on Sunday, criticised high interest rates enforced under Turkey's current austerity measures and said they were pushing up the inflation rate and distorting the economy.

"Banks have given up their main function and have turned into rentiers (buyers of government bills)," Coskun said.

Despite rosier outlook, Kaske defends firm's decision to cut dividend

Siemens chief expects rise in sales and profit

MUNICH, May 29: Siemens AG expects to post significantly higher sales and net profit for the year ending Sept 30, Chairman Karlheinz Kaske said, the Wall Street Journal has reported.

Siemens's decision last November to cut its dividend one Deutsche mark (59 cents) to DM11 (\$6.45) a share, jolted West Germany's stock exchanges and outraged many of its shareholders.

But Kaske's comments in an interview are a reversal of the bleak picture Siemens has given analysts recently of its near-term outlook and reflect the trend of higher economic growth world-wide.

"The exact figures we'll have three months from now," Kaske said of Siemens's results. "But

nevertheless what we all feared after the crash in October last year didn't happen... The business of our companies all around the world is running much better than we all expected just a few months ago."

Sales

Specifically, Kaske predicted sales for the giant maker of electrical products would reach DM58 billion this year, up about 13 per cent from DM51.4 billion in fiscal 1987. The chief executive wouldn't make a specific profit forecast. But he said Siemens's net profit margin has been running at 2.5 per cent of sales so far this year and he expressed optimism the rate could be maintained for the full year.

A 2.5 per cent return on DM58 billion in sales would give Siemens's net of about DM1.45 billion, 13 per cent higher than the DM1.28 billion in fiscal 1987.

Still, despite the rosier outlook, Kaske defended the company's decision to cut its dividend. Shareholders were particularly incensed because the total savings were less than the interest Siemens earns yearly on its DM23 billion in cash reserves. Siemens shares still suffer and today trade at only about half their pre-crash value.

Surprised

"We were a little surprised by the reaction" of shareholders to the dividend cut, Kaske said. "It's not a matter of having the

money or not. A dividend goes up when the profit is good and goes down when the profit is worse." Net profit last year was 13 per cent lower than the DM1.47 billion in fiscal 1987, higher than it was three years ago, he added.

The chief executive also asserted that the DM23 billion figure was not a true reflection of Siemens's financial strength. Under West German accounting standards, he noted, companies are legally required to carry pension fund assets on their balance sheets. About DM10 billion of the total is pension fund assets. Because similar rules don't exist in the US, Kaske noted that comparing Siemens's cash position with US rivals is misleading.

Hitachi, Toshiba post gains in net profit for fiscal year

TOKYO, May 29: Three leading Japanese electrical-goods makers posted steeply higher profits for the fiscal year ended March 31, as booming domestic demand offset the effect of the yen's rise on exports, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Hitachi Ltd., Japan's largest comprehensive electric-machinery maker, posted a 22 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to ¥65.14 billion (\$524 million) from ¥53.31 billion (\$429 million) a year earlier.

Toshiba Corp., topmaker of electric machinery and communications-information products, reported a 56 per cent rise in consolidated net to ¥37.04 billion from ¥23.7 billion.

Fuji Electric Co., a leading electric-machinery maker with close ties to Siemens AG of West Germany, said its consolidated net jumped 90 per cent to ¥5.02 billion from ¥2.65 billion.

Gains

Sales gains for the three companies, however, were less spectacular. Toshiba's sales rose 7.2 per cent to a record ¥2.68 trillion from ¥2.5 trillion; Hitachi's sales slipped slightly to ¥2.92 trillion from ¥2.925 trillion; and Fuji's sales edged up 2.4 per cent to ¥402.3 billion from ¥392.99 billion.

Hitachi's pretax profit, reflecting cost reduction measures, rose 56 per cent to ¥138.74 billion from ¥89.11 billion. Per-share profit climbed to ¥22.29 from ¥18.92.

The company said declines in major product sales categories because of adverse currency factors and competition from newly

industrialised countries underscored its flat sales.

By product division, sales of power systems and equipment, encompassing 21 per cent of all sales, dropped 8 per cent to ¥607.96 billion. Sales of consumer products, including television sets, videotape recorders, home air-conditioners and other items — 18 per cent of total sales — fell 9 per cent to ¥327.26 billion.

Sales of industrial machinery and plants — 9 per cent of all sales — fell 2 per cent to ¥271.65 billion. Sales of transport equipment, automotive parts and others — 10 per cent of all sales — fell 3 per cent to ¥293.18 billion. Sales in the information and communication systems and electronic devices category — 42 per cent of total sales — rose 10 per cent to ¥1.22 trillion helping to offset declines in other areas.

The surge was based largely on swelling demand for computers and semiconductor in Japan's domestic market. Reflecting the effects of the high yen and foreign competition, export sales — 26 per cent of total sales — slumped 9 per cent to ¥772.17 billion.

Toshiba said moderate recovery in net profit, sales and pretax profits mirrored an expected rebound for Japanese electrical makers as a result of reduced costs and surging domestic demand for consumer products.

He said the performance took place despite an estimated drop in the value of exports to North America during the period to ¥210 billion from ¥250 billion. He attributed the slump to

fallout from a Toshiba affiliate's sales of militarily sensitive equipment to the Soviet Union and U.S. semiconductor tariffs placed on Japan chip exporters for alleged violations of a bilateral accord.

Profit

Toshiba's pretax profit, partly reflecting a shrinkage in production costs, surged 58 per cent to ¥65.06 billion from ¥41.2 billion. Per-share profit climbed to ¥12.60 from ¥8.67.

Toshiba plans to pay an unchanged year-end dividend of ¥4 a share. Sales of information-communications systems — 46 per cent of all sales — rose 14 per cent to ¥1.24 trillion; heavy-electrical apparatus — 26 per cent of total sales — rose 5 per cent to ¥681.11 billion; and consumer products — 28 per cent of all sales — rose 1 per cent to ¥758.09 billion.

In information services, sales of semiconductor, including one-megabit dynamic random access memory chips, rose 15 per cent.

Toshiba noted that export sales rose 7 per cent to ¥775.84 billion, reflecting positive overseas demand despite adverse currency factors and trade frictions. Exports accounted for 29 per cent of all sales.

Fuji's pretax profit soared 97 per cent to ¥8.88 billion from ¥4.51 billion. Per-share profit rose to ¥7.39 from ¥4.36. The company will pay an unchanged ¥6 annual dividend.

Fuji attributed the profit growth partly to reduced costs and other streamlining measures.

Quality control awards

FOR the third consecutive time Petrobras engineers were awarded certification by the American Society for Quality Control (ASQC), an award worth international recognition. Twelve out of the 14 nominees were awarded this year, according to Petrobras News.

The certified quality engineers are Alfredo Carlos Orphao Lobo, Antonio Tomazelli Filho, Carlos Jose Bandeira de Mello Joia, Claudio Luiz Froes Raeder, Emilson Manoel Ribeiro, Ernani Turazzi, Eduardo Tadamu Iguchi (Segen/Diquil), Adelman Moreira Ribeiro, Angelica Garcia Cobas Laureano, Marcelo Carlos Lins Vertis, Ronaldo Barbosa Coelho (Sermat/Diquil), and Cynthia Michel Soares (Cenpes).

Petrobras' R&D manager, Jose Paulo Silveira, a major force behind the company's quality control system offered a luncheon in honour of the certified engineers. On that occasion, he said he was very pleased to see the continued enthusiasm shown in the company, and added: "No doubt it is one more victory for Petrobras' technical staff. Besides consolidating quality, certification increases our prestige in Brazil and abroad."

Title

For Carlos Joia, the title he received represents yet another international recognition of the company's technical capability and may help make exports easier of domestic products and services.

Claudio Raeder considers the ASQC programme valid and necessary for technical capability development, but thinks another specific programme should be worked up to reflect the Brazilian reality. The certified quality engineer,

according to ASQC directives, is a professional who understands and can apply the principles of product and service quality evaluation and control. This body of knowledge and applied technologies includes, but is not limited to: development and operation of quality control systems; application and analysis of testing and inspection procedures; an ability to apply metrologic and statistical methods to diagnose and correct improper quality control practices in order to assure product and service conformity with prescribed standards; an understanding of human factors and motivation; facility with quality cost concepts and techniques; knowledge and ability to develop, administer and audit management information systems; quality systems for deficiency identification and correction.

Technologies

The body of knowledge for certification is constantly affected by new technologies, improved policies, and changing dynamics in manufacturing and service industries. Therefore, certification must be updated.

Successful applicants who become certified under the CQE programme and wish to retain their certified status must participate in the "certification maintenance" programme. The primary purpose of this programme is to motivate quality control professionals to maintain the same level of up-to-date proficiency shown during their original certification.

Updating may be demonstrated by accumulating 15 professional credits — recertification units — every three years in 11 subjects, or by taking and passing a special reexamination.

World Business Summary

EEC and Comecon to sign agreement

BRUSSELS, May 29: (AP): The European Economic Community and Comecon, the communist trade bloc, will sign an accord, most likely in Brussels on June 24, formalising their relations, an EEC spokesman said yesterday. The agreement will be initiated in Moscow on June 9, the spokesman said. It will then be officially approved by EEC foreign ministers in Luxembourg on June 14. The agreement will mark the first time the Soviet-led Comecon, the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, officially recognises the 31-year-old EEC. Talks between the EEC and the Comecon nations — Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Soviet Union, Mongolia, Vietnam and Cuba — began in September 1986. But they stalled on Comecon's refusal to recognise West Berlin as part of the EEC. The problem was solved with the inclusion of a territorial clause in the final agreement that tacitly declares West Berlin to be part of the EEC. But at the same time, Comecon will make a statement reaffirming the validity of separate agreements on Berlin signed by the four powers after World War II. The agreement of mutual recognition will, in the EEC's view, make it easier for Western Europe to sign bilateral trade accords with East European nations.

Soviet Union to launch Eurobond in W. Germany

FRANKFURT, May 29: (AP): The Soviet Union is preparing to launch a 500-million-mark (\$294-million) Eurobond in West Germany, further increasing its debt to the West, banking sources in Frankfurt said yesterday. The bond would be Moscow's second public borrowing on European capital markets, following a 100-million-Swiss-franc (\$70-million) bond floated in January in Switzerland. But a West German banker familiar with the West German deal said the new bond placement first has to overcome a hurdle with the Soviet bureaucracy. West German regulations require that a bond prospectus reveal the issuer's debt and foreign exchange reserves. Such information, however, is highly classified under Soviet law. "The Soviet law will have to change," said the banker, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "The politburo is working on that decision and apparently will make it very soon." The Soviet net foreign debt is estimated at around \$24 billion. Since it amounted to only 57 per cent of Moscow's 1987 export revenues, it is the second-lowest debt among East bloc countries after Czechoslovakia. News of the new bond comes on the heels of a 3.5-billion-mark (\$2.08-billion) credit agreement signed earlier this month by West German and Soviet bankers. The bond, expected to come within two weeks, will be issued by the state-owned Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs (Vnesheconobank) and lead-managed by four West German banks.

Reuters buys 48.8pc of AAP holding company

LONDON, May 29: (Reuters): Reuters Holdings Plc said yesterday it had bought a 48.8 per cent interest in Australian Associated Press Pty Ltd (AAP) for 74.2 million Australian dollars (\$59 million). Reuters acquired 44.65 per cent of the domestic news agency's holding company from the John Fairfax Ltd group. Fairfax, a 4.15 per cent owner of West Australian Newspapers Ltd, part of the Bell Group, Fairfax and West Australian Newspapers had originally agreed to sell the shares in media magazine Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation Ltd. But Australia's anti-monopoly watchdog, the Trade Practices Commission, said it would investigate the deal with news corporation to determine whether laws relating to market dominance had been violated. Reuters spokesman David Keefe said one consequence of yesterday's acquisition would be to keep the Reuters stake connected with Murdoch to below 15 per cent, the maximum which Reuters trust deeds allow anyone to hold in the company's shares. He said Murdoch's main stake in Reuters remained about 9.5 million "A" shares out of 100 million in issue, and 10.3 million publicly traded "B" shares, out of 321 million outstanding, which are held through News Corporation. Reuters said it acquired the Fairfax and West Australian Newspapers's interest under an accord with News Corporation that had received formal approval from the Australian government.

The deal will give Reuters and Murdoch's company an equal interest in the holding company, the statement said.

Opec can defend its official oil price, says Aghazadeh

JAKARTA, May 29: (Opecna): The official Opec reference price of \$18 a barrel can "easily" be defended if all members adhere to their price and production agreement, according to Iranian Minister of Petroleum, Gholamreza Aghazadeh. The minister, who arrived here on Wednesday, held a three-hour meeting with Indonesian Minister of Mines and Energy, Giandjar Kartasasmita.

Speaking to journalists after the meeting, Giandjar said that he had told his guest that Indonesia might consider buying Iranian crude provided "the conditions were right." According to Giandjar, Iranian crude was suitable for processing into products at Indonesian refineries due to its characteristics and also its price. He said that details would be discussed between the Iranian minister, the Indonesian trade minister and the president of Pertamina, the state oil company, at a meeting on Thursday. Giandjar said Aghazadeh had expressed interest in buying helicopters manufactured by the Nusantara aircraft factory in Bandung. During his stay in Indonesia, the Iranian minister will also pay a visit to the factory. Indonesia is the last leg of the Iranian minister's tour which has already taken him to Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Inflation and interest rate worries persist in money markets

LONDON, May 29: (Reuters): Jitters about what is seen as a risk of higher inflation and of interest rate rises to check it persist in world financial markets, helping the dollar but depressing stock prices. The dollar touched 1.72 West German marks on Friday, its highest since November, on speculation the US Federal Reserve might have to raise its discount rate to 6.5 per cent, from 6.25, to dampen inflationary pressure in the United States. That would make dollar assets more rewarding, hence the move to buy dollars. But costlier borrowing would also hit consumer spending and pinch profits, which is what worries stock markets.

"It's too early," said David Jones, of Wall Street dealers Aubrey G. Lanson Inc. "The Fed doesn't want to do anything as highly visible as raising the discount rate. They are worried about its effect on the stock market." "I personally do not think that will happen in the US," said Vice Finance Minister Yoshikazu Yoshino in Tokyo. An 11-point fall on Wall Street on Friday was followed by a decline in Japanese trading in Tokyo. This took the Nikkei index down 327.99 points or 1.2 per cent to 26,962.50, its first close below 27,000 since April 22. Attention will again focus on Tokyo at the start of the coming week, since there are market holidays tomorrow in the United States and Britain. The price of gold, a favoured refuge when investors scent inflation, meanwhile closed last week above \$450 an ounce — but it had been up around \$457.25 a few days earlier. One reason for gold's weaker showing at week's end was a sharp drop in Chicago soybean futures. These were a favourite with commodity speculators, who took profits last week and sent them tumbling after they had soared on prospects of dry weather in the US soybean belt.

Cost-cutting gives new push to industry

A steel superstructure in Japan

OKYO, May 29: When Japan's leading steel companies announced sweeping plans to restructure their operations a year ago in response to rising costs and falling exports, diversification was held out as the industry's last, best hope for survival in a suddenly uncertain future, according to the International Herald Tribune.

The nation's steelmakers, pinched by the high yen's effect on sales abroad, began launching dozens of subsidiaries, ranging from a mushroom farm to myriad high-technology ventures. A newspaper cartoonist pictured Nippon Steel Corp., the industry leader, as evolving into a cross between Fujitsu, the giant computer concern, and Mitsubishi Real Estate, a leading Tokyo property company.

But when the Big Five, as they are known here, report their annual results on Friday, new businesses will be entirely beside the point. More than anything analysts say, the numbers will reflect rigorous cost-cutting efforts in the past year, favourable market conditions and the industry's determination to continue competing in its core business.

After operating losses of 468 billion yen (\$3.75 billion) last year, the Big Five — Kawasaki Steel Corp., Sumitomo Metal, Nippon Steel Corp., Nippon Kokan, Kobe Steel Ltd. — are expected to show profits of 35 billion yen on steel operations for the financial year ending March 31. Sales of shares, land and other assets are likely to add 80 billion yen or more to that figure.

Prospects for the current year, financial analysts and company

executives say, are even brighter.

"Terrific" is the appropriate word, said Makoto Hirayama, a steel analyst at Nomura Research Institute. "It's a textbook case in how to rationalise integrated steel companies."

By the early 1990s, industry analysts say, Japanese producers may well achieve the two ambitious targets they set last year: competing effectively with South Korea, thus fending off their most serious threat, and raising profit margins from a historic 8 per cent to about 15 per cent.

Products
A move into higher-quality products, which the South Koreans cannot produce, is part of this strategy. Specialty steels are expected to account for a quarter of production in five years, double their share two years ago.

Leading steelmakers are also following such industries as autos in shifting production offshore. Nippon Kokan, for instance, will become the first Japanese steelmaker to wholly own a US steel company when it completes its purchase of the Pittsburgh-based National Steel Co. in a few months.

Vision
Diversification out of steel production is clearly continuing, chiefly because it is seen as a long-term necessity. But producers are now coming to recognise that other industries are not necessarily less bruising than steel has been, particularly for newcomers.

Nippon Steel, for instance, which has gone farthest, afield, has already launched 34 new units and entered into 10 joint ventures. Although the company

is adhering to its announced goal of reducing steel operations to 50 per cent of revenues by 1995, doubts are already apparent.

"Diversification is a vision, not a concrete plan, and it's already obvious it will be difficult," said Yoshio Sasaki, managing director of Nippon Steel. "We're now considering just how close we can get to our targets."

The realisation has been one factor in shifting the industry's attention back to its core operations in recent months. More immediate, however, has been an unexpected surge in domestic demand for basic steel products.

Braced for their second consecutive year of declining output, producers saw production rise to 102 million metric tons in the year to March 31, a gain of 6 per cent and 8 million tons above most predictions. Several days ago the Iron and Steel Federation, the national industry association, raised its production forecast for the current year from 97 million metric tons to more than 100 million.

Component
Nonetheless, executives here believe they must quickly learn to operate profitably at a production level of 85 million to 90 million metric tons annually — "a long climb down," as one analyst said, from the record of 111 million tons set in 1979.

Accordingly, there is no question of relenting on the rationalisation programmes the Big Five have undertaken along with their drive to diversify. By cutting employment as much as 60 per cent over the next five years, output per capita is forecast to rise 80 per cent from 1987 levels, to 620 metric tons.

The industry also intends to increase its average export price by selling abroad more selectively. In particular, it now appears prepared to forgo much of the China market, where the industry incurred 180 billion yen of the losses reported a year ago in an effort to maintain capacity usage.

The final component, which steelmakers are only now positioned to address, is to reduce financial charges on combined debts of 6.26 trillion yen. Later this year Nippon Steel is expected to announce a Eurobond issue of some \$1 billion, which would be the largest corporate financing in history, and competitors are expected to follow suit.

"Steel is said to be a declining industry," said Sasaki of Nippon Steel. "We simply don't think it is."

Nonetheless, the question lingers: Can steelmakers here compete at the lower end of the market with imports from South Korea and other low-cost producers?

Japanese production costs, according to most industry estimates, are now about 20 per cent higher than South Korea's, which are the world's lowest. But assuming the continued appreciation of the South Korean won and rising wage rates, Nomura Research predicts that Japan's streamlining will reduce costs to a level below South Korea's by 1990.

Many industry executives are still uncertain of this. But they say they will come within 10 per cent of what it will cost South Korea to steel in Japan when freight and import charges are included. That, they believe, may be just enough to compete.

American Airlines orders Boeings

NEW YORK, May 29, (Agencies): In a major boost for Boeing Co.'s fuel-efficient 757 passenger planes, American Airlines said yesterday that it would buy up to 100 of the jetliners. Analysts said the deal could be worth up to \$4.2 billion.

Under the agreement, American will acquire 50 757s with an option to purchase 50 more. Robert C. Crandall, the chairman of American's parent, AMR Corp., would not disclose a dollar figure for the purchase.

American will take delivery of the planes starting in 1989. They are primarily designed as replacements for the ageing 737s and 727s in American's fleet.

The airline said it had chosen Rolls-Royce engines to power the twin-engine 757 jets. Rolls-Royce PLC said the order for its RB-211 engines was worth more than \$1.86 billion.

Price
Boeing's stock price, which had risen strongly in recent days on speculation that the American purchase would be announced, fell 37.5 cents on Wednesday to \$53.50 on the New York Stock Exchange.

On the London Stock Exchange, Rolls-Royce's shares rose 6 pence in heavy trading to close at 124 pence, after hitting a session high of 127.

The order is Boeing's second major one this month. International Lease Finance Corp. of Los Angeles said last week that it would buy 100 aircraft and options for 20 others, valued at more than \$4 billion.

Systems
The 757, which can carry 194 passengers, uses 25 per cent less fuel than comparable planes and is a medium- to long-range aircraft. But airlines have been slow to replace their older aircraft because falling fuel prices have kept the planes cost-efficient.

Switching to new aircraft also requires extensive new training systems for pilots, including computerised flight simulators. It was reported earlier that Allegis Corp., the parent of United Airlines, was considering ordering as many as 60 of the 757s, worth an estimated \$2.5 billion to \$2.9 billion.

Companies sign joint venture agreement

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, May 29, (AP): Petrofina SA of Belgium signed a joint-venture agreement with a Malaysian petroleum company here today under which Petrofina will invest 25 million ringgits (\$9.67 million) in Petmal Pty Ltd in return for 30 per cent equity in the company.

A company known as Petromal is being set up under the agreement to market a wide range of lubricants under Petrofina's Fina label, said L.M.N. Affendi, Petmal's executive chairman who signed the agreement together with Petrofina chairman Jean Pierre Amory.

He said the 25 million ringgits (\$9.67 million) was the largest single Belgian investment in Malaysia.

Expertise
Petrofina's equity participation would also see the transfer of technical and commercial expertise to Petmal and the appointment of two of its directors to the Petmal board.

Petmal was established in 1979 and appointed by Petrofina to be the sole distributor of Fina lubricants in Malaysia.

Affendi said the company's annual turnover was 55 million ringgits (\$21.28 million) and "is still growing."

KUWAIT

BANK SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
NATIONAL BANK	0.870	0.880	0.880	0.880	40000	6
GULF BANK	0.355	0.350	0.355	0.350	460000	7
COMMERCIAL BK	0.255	0.250	0.255	0.250	1490000	31
AHLI BANK	0.295	0.295	0.295	0.295	40000	2
B.K.M.E.	0.300	0.305	0.305	0.305	80000	5
K.R.E.B.	0.385	---	---	---	---	---
BURGAM BANK	0.244	0.246	0.246	0.246	540000	21
K.F. HOUSE	0.415	0.415	0.415	0.415	840000	19
INVESTMENT SECTOR						
KWT INV. CO.	0.168	0.172	0.172	0.170	140000	3
K.F.T.C.I.C.	0.210	---	---	---	---	---
K.I.I.C.	0.162	0.160	0.160	0.158	140000	4
CON.FACILITIES	0.480	0.475	0.475	0.475	20000	1
ANLIAN INV.	0.000	---	---	---	---	---
I.F.A.	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.110	220000	8
INV. PEARL KWT	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	900000	21
INSURANCE SECTOR						
KWT INSURANCE	0.690	---	---	---	---	---
GULF INSURANCE	0.370	---	---	---	---	---
AHLIA INS. CO.	0.570	0.600	0.600	0.600	5000	1
WARBA INS. CO.	0.460	---	---	---	---	---
REAL ESTATE SECTOR						
KWT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.226	0.226	0.226	0.226	40000	2
UNIT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	540000	3
NAT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.210	0.210	0.210	0.210	80000	2
SALIMAH R.E.	0.075	---	---	---	---	---
KWT PROJECTS	0.079	0.090	0.090	0.083	920000	11
KWT R.E.I.COM	0.000	---	---	---	---	---
INDUSTRY SECTOR						
KWT IND. CO.	0.480	---	---	---	---	---
KWT M.P. IND.	0.280	---	---	---	---	---
KWT CEMENT CO.	0.238	---	---	---	---	---
REF. IND. CO.	0.410	0.420	0.420	0.415	80000	6
N.A.M.T.CO.	0.000	---	---	---	---	---
GULF CABLE	1.020	1.030	1.030	1.030	60000	2
K.P.W.IND. CO.	0.228	0.230	0.232	0.230	280000	11
CON.MARINE	0.350	---	---	---	---	---
K.SH.REP.CO.	0.042	---	---	---	---	---
SERVICES SECTOR						
OVERLAND TRANS	0.081	---	---	---	---	---
K.M.C.CO.	0.190	---	---	---	---	---
KWT HOTELS CO.	0.174	---	---	---	---	---
P. JAWHAR	0.174	0.180	0.182	0.178	700000	22
CON.WCT. CO.	0.073	0.082	0.082	0.082	200000	8
MOBILE TELE.	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.375	110000	4
KWT COMPUTER	0.192	0.200	0.200	0.192	820000	18
FOOD SECTOR						
LIVESTOCK T.T.	0.226	---	---	---	---	---
UNIT FISHERIES	0.158	0.158	0.158	0.158	200000	6
UNIT POULTRY	0.228	---	---	---	---	---
KWT FOODS	0.300	---	---	---	---	---
AGRI. FOOD PRO.	0.150	---	---	---	---	---
NON-KWT SECTOR						
BHM. INTER.BK	0.066	0.067	0.067	0.066	1320000	13
BHM. EAST.BK	0.044	0.046	0.046	0.046	80000	1
UNITD. GULF BK	0.000	---	---	---	---	---
COAST INVEST.	0.081	0.085	0.085	0.081	4460000	55
A.R.E. INV. CORP.	0.038	---	---	---	---	---
FIRST GULF BK	0.620	---	---	---	---	---
B.K.I.G.	0.083	0.083	0.084	0.083	160000	2

Kuwait Stock Exchange

COMPANIES LISTED ON THE PARALLEL MARKET	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
PEARL INV. CO.	0.098	---	---	---	---	---
GULF INV. CO.	0.041	---	---	---	---	---
GULF INTL INS.	0.009	---	---	---	---	---
ARAB INT. CO.	0.055	---	---	---	---	---
SHARJAH INS.	0.000	---	---	---	---	---
GULF UNION INS.	0.055	---	---	---	---	---
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR						
B-GULF MEDICAL	0.016	---	---	---	---	---
C.R.K. WHITE DMNT	0.022	0.023	0.023	0.022	1230000	9
D-AJMAN CEMENT	0.007	---	---	---	---	---
F-RUJAHAN CEMENT	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	350000	3
F-SHARJAH CEMENT	0.010	---	---	---	---	---
G-GULF CEMENT	0.015	---	---	---	---	---
H-UMM QAIYATH	0.024	0.026	0.027	0.023	3360000	21

Oapec officials and Japanese team discuss energy ties

THE acting secretary-general of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Oapec), Abdelaziz Alwattari, and a number of Oapec officials (Dr Usameh Jamali, director of Information and Library Department, Abdullahi Zarrag, director of the Technical Affairs Department, and Dr Jassim Al Gumer, acting director of the Economics Department) received at the headquarters of the general secretariat yesterday a group of 21 representatives from Japanese companies specialised in various aspects of the petroleum industry.

The meeting took place within the framework of an annual programme organised by the Japan Centre for Cooperation with the Middle East (JCCE) in collaboration with Harvard University. These meetings with Oapec have been held since 1981.

Alwattari reviewed contacts between Oapec and Japan in the field of energy since 1975. A highlight was the 1976 seminar entitled "Opportunities for cooperation between Oapec and Japan," held at a time when the world petroleum industry was experiencing a radical transformation in relations between oil exporting and consuming countries.

He referred to the prevailing belief at that time concerning the limited availability of oil, and the success of Japan's policy to reduce its dependence on oil through taxation and enhanced consumption efficiency. He cited the example of Japan's consumption of oil for electricity generation which is now 50 per cent lower than in the mid-1970s.

The acting secretary-general discussed many issues related to structural changes in the Japanese economy particularly the oil sector.

Alwattari called for expanding the Japanese market for Arab refined petroleum imports, which currently amount to about half a million barrels per day. He also proposed that Arab participation be allowed in the Japanese refining industry, citing that fears of such participation have allayed in the EEC and US markets.

In a brief survey of the Arab refining industry, Alwattari mentioned the conclusion drawn by the Fourth Arab Energy Conference that the Arab refining industry will tend more and more to meet domestic Arab needs.

THE GULF BANK

Exchange Service	Murqan
830 to 12 noon; 7.30 to 9.30 pm	
Indian Rupee	20.586
Pakistan Rupee	15.989
Sri Lankan Rupee	13.215
Philippine Peso	275.86
US Dollars	100.000
Shoring Pounds	100.000
Dow Jones Market Fund	100.000
The Islamic Fund	100.000
Govern Investors	100.000

AMMAN

OPNG	CLSG
ALA-ADDIN COMPANY	1.19 1.19
ARAB ALUMINUM LTD.	1.75 1.74
ARAB BANK	116.0113.2
ARAB CHEMICAL IND.	3.97 4.00
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	1.39 1.38
ARAB INSURANCE	1.10 1.05
ARAB INT. INV/TRADE	0.98 0.98
ARAB INT. UNION INS.	0.94 0.90
ARAB INTER. HOTELS	0.53 0.58
ARAB JOR/INVEST/BK	2.10 2.10
ARAB PAPER CON/TRA	0.32 0.36
ARAB PHARMA. MANF.	2.01 2.00
ARAB PHARMA/CHEN	0.76 0.75
ARAB POTASH CO.	---
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	1.65 1.65
BANK OF JORDAN	15.00 15.20
BEHALI	30.20 30.00
CIRO AMMAN BANK	0.41 0.40
DAR AL SHAAB PRESS	1.43 1.45
DAR ALDANA DV/INVS.	0.42 0.42
DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.	0.51 0.51
FINANCE/CREDIT/COR	4.10 3.95
GARAGE OWNERS OFF	2.39 2.63
GENERAL INSURANCE	1.26 1.27
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.22 1.30
GENERAL MINING	0.79 0.79
HIMEN MINERALS	1.20 1.32
HOLY LAND INS.	0.65 0.64
IND. MATCH JEMCO	1.42 1.42
INDSTR. DEVLPT BKR	1.31 1.29
INDSTR. COMM/AGK	0.75 0.75
INDSTR. INVEST.	0.20 0.20
INTER. COM/INVS.	0.96 0.96
IRBID ELECTRICITY	0.64 0.64
ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	1.32 1.31
ITERMED/PETRI/CH	0.75 0.75
J-TOUR-SP COMPLEX	1.26 1.29
JERUSALEM INS.	13.60 14.00
JO TOBACCO/CIGARET	1.07 1.07
JOR CERAMIC FACTORY	25.01 25.05
JOR EAGLE INS.	1.49 1.48
JOR ELECTRIC POWER	1.10 1.02
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	0.97 0.95
JOR GLASS INDUSTRY	2.50 2.50
JOR HOTEL TOURISM	1.53 1.54
JOR INDUSTRY CHEM.	1.20 1.20
JOR INS AND FIN.	0.72 0.70
JOR LEASING CORP.	0.23 0.23
JOR LHM BTRIC	0.50 0.50
JOR LHM CONSULT	2.50 2.51
JOR NATIONAL BANK	3.00 3.08
JOR PAPER CARDBOARD	2.25 2.28
JOR PHOSPHATE MINS	1.19 1.18
JOR PIPES MANUFACT.	2.05 2.00
JOR PRESS/PUBLISH.	4.00 4.01
JOR PRINTING/PACK.	0.63 0.63
JOR ROCK WOOL IND.	0.75 0.75
JOR SECURIT. CORP	2.74 2.70
JOR SELPHO CHEN.	1.10 1.10
JOR WOOD INDUSTRY	4.50 4.50
JOR WORSTED MLL	1.00 1.00
JOR. KUWAIT AGR	7.19 7.20
JOR. PETROLIM REF	5.20 5.30
JOR. FRENCH INS.	2.00 2.00
JOR. INV. FIN. CORP	0.29 0.29
JORDAN GULF REAL	1.00 1.00
JORDAN DAILY	1.18 1.19
JORDAN GULF BANK	0.94 0.95
JORDAN GULF INS.	13.85 13.90
JORDAN INSURANCE	1.66 1.66
JORDAN ISLAMIC BNM	1.50 1.50
JORDAN KUWAIT BNM	1.95 1.95
JORDAN TANNING	0.77 0.76
LIVESTOCK/POULTRY	0.79 0.79
NACH/EQU/RENT/MAIN	0.69 0.73
MAS INDUSTRIES	0.60 0.40
MIDDLE EAST HOTEL	0.60 0.60
MIDDLE EAST INS	0.80 0.55
MINERALS RESEARCH	1.80 1.80
NAT.FIN. INVEST CO	0.97 0.97
NAT/CABLE/MILE/HF	1.24 1.23
NAT. INV. BTRIC	0.72 0.72
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO	2.78 2.77
ORIENT DRY BATTERY	0.25 0.28
PETRA BANK	1.97 1.97
PETRA JOR. INS.	0.50 0.50
PHILADELPHIA INS.	0.91 0.90
RAFFIA INDUSTRIAL	0.80 0.

SPORTS

Al Jahra take on Al Adan

BASKETBALL fans can expect to be treated to an exciting exhibition of the game when two former champions of the Palarong Pilipino women's division meet on Friday in the first of the best-of-three series.

Al Jahra Hospital, the 1983 champions, and Al Adan Hospital, winners of the title in 1984, have been training hard for this event which forms a part of Kapilku's Palarong Pilipino mini-Olympics Batakan ng Buto '88.

The match will start at 5.30 pm at the Kheifan gymnasium and both the teams are expecting a large number of their supporters for this game.

Matched

Some of the events of the mini-Olympics are also being held at the Qadisiya Sports Club. In the table tennis and lawn tennis the Farwaniya Hospital - Arabtel women's teams are evenly matched against Al Adan Hospital-Gulf Paper.

Kapilku expects a full house at the Kheifan gymnasium on Friday when the regular raffle draws and musical entertainment by AG&P Combo takes place during the intervals.

Pistons take series lead

PONTIAC, Mich., May 29. (Reuters): The Detroit backcourt of Joe Dumars and Isiah Thomas combined for 52 points yesterday to lead the Pistons to a 98-94 victory over the Boston Celtics in the third game of the National Basketball Association (NBA) East Conference finals.

Detroit leads the best-of-seven series two games to one with game four scheduled for Detroit tomorrow. The winner will represent the conference in the NBA finals against either the defending champion Los Angeles Lakers or the Dallas Mavericks. Los Angeles leads that series 2-1.

Dumars paced the Detroit attack with 29 points and Thomas added 23 as the Pistons, in an extremely physical contest, held off a late Boston surge to take the series lead.

The Celtics have now lost nine straight games at the Pontiac Silverdome.

CUBS OUTCLASS ASTROS

Expos overcome Dodgers

NEW YORK, May 29. (AP): Hubie Brooks' bases-loaded single with one out to the 10th scored Luis Rivera as the Montreal Expos defeated the Los Angeles Dodgers 3-2 yesterday.

The hit came off reliever Jay Howell, 2-1. Jeff Parrett, 4-1, pitched two scoreless innings for the victory.

In other National League games it was Philadelphia over San Francisco 4-3 in 10 innings; Chicago 14, Houston 7; Pittsburgh 5, Cincinnati 2; New York 5, San Diego 1; and Atlanta 2, St Louis 1.

Los Angeles starter Fernando Valenzuela, coming off the worst outing of his eight-year Major League career, appeared headed for his fourth victory in nine decisions, limiting the Expos to four hits and holding a 2-1 lead with two outs and none on in the ninth.

But Valenzuela issued his first walk of the game to Tim Wallach

and Andres Galarrraga followed with a double inside the line at third to tie the score.

Phillies 4, Giants 3

Von Hayes homered off Randy Bockus with two outs in the bottom of the 10th as Philadelphia defeated San Francisco. Bockus, 0-1, the fifth Giants pitcher, had retired the first two batters before Hayes hit a 3-1 pitch over the right-field fence for his fourth homer of the season.

Cubs 14, Astros 7

Shawon Dunston had four hits including a two-run triple and Rafael Palmeiro hit two home runs to lead a 19-hit attack as Chicago defeated Houston. The loss was the fourth straight for Houston and first this season for Mike Scott, 6-1, who lasted only four innings. Calvin Schiraldi, 3-2, was the winner in his first start since coming off the 15-day disabled list. Every starter in the Chicago lineup had at least one hit.

Odell Jones, who hadn't started a game in seven years, surprised himself by coming close to a perfect game yesterday as Milwaukee Brewers beat Cleveland Indians 2-0.

Jones had a perfect game going until he walked Mel Hall with one out in the eighth and wound up with a one-hitter over 8 1-3 innings.

In other American League action, Chicago nipped Toronto 3-2, Oakland beat Boston 7-5, Kansas City defeated Texas 8-6, Minnesota downed Detroit 5-2, Seattle slapped New York 6-1 and California blanked Baltimore 5-0.

The Brewers took a 1-0 lead against Rich Yeti, 3-3, in the fourth on Dale Sveum's RBI single and made it 2-0 in the seventh on doubles by B.J. Surhoff and Greg Brock.

White Sox 5, Blue Jays 2

Rookie Melido Perez won his fifth game in six decisions and Steve Lyons drove in two runs

with a homer and game-tying single. Perez allowed five hits in six innings, walking two and striking out four. Bobby Thigpen, the third Chicago pitcher, pitched 1-3 inning to earn his eighth save.

Athletics 7, Red Sox 5

Ron Hassey's bases-loaded walk and Walt Weiss' sacrifice fly keyed a two-run seventh inning as Oakland defeated Boston for its fourth straight victory. The Athletics, 33-14, have the Major League's best win-loss record.

Twins 5, Tigers 2

Gary Gaetti's two-run homer capped a three-run eighth inning as Minnesota's record moved over 500 for the first time this season. Dan Gladden led off the eighth with a single to centre off Walt Terrell, 2-2, and took third on Kirby Puckett's one-out single. Gladden scored on Kent Hrbek's fielder's choice grounder before Gaetti hit his ninth homer.



● An injured policeman is carried off the field after Chelsea soccer fans started fighting when their team lost to Middlesbrough at Stamford Bridge, London, on Saturday. The fans smashed through a security barrier and raced the length of the field to throw stones and bottles at the visiting supporters. (Reuters wirephoto)

England name team for European finals

LONDON, May 29. (Reuters): Within hours of seeing his team relegated from the First Division, uncapped Chelsea defender Tony Dorigo was called up to England's 20-strong soccer squad for next month's European Championship finals.

Attack-minded Dorigo, 22, and only once before named in a full England squad, was picked last night as cover for left-back Kenny Sansom despite being kept out of England's warm-up matches by his club's involvement in end-of-season playoffs.

Lynchpin

Manager Bobby Robson chose to take six midfielders to West Germany, and included veteran Peter Reid, who played in the 1986 World Cup finals, and Steve McMahon, a Lynchpin of Liverpool's championship-winning side who was first capped in February this year.

The forward line-up was as expected, with erratic winger Chris Waddle doing enough in the warm-up games to convince Robson he had regained form after an eight-week spring layoff.

Left out from the original warm-up squad of 24 were forwards Tony Cottee and Mick Harford, defender Gary Pallister and goalkeeper David Seaman, who will remain in England on stand-by.

Squad

Goalkeepers: Peter Shilton,

Chris Woods

Defenders: Gary Stevens, Viv Anderson, Kenny Sansom, Tony Dorigo, Mark Wright, Dave Watson, Tony Adams.

Midfielders: Bryan Robson, Neil Webb, Peter Reid, Trevor Steven, Glenn Hoddle, Steve McMahon.

Forwards: Peter Beardsley, John Barnes, Mark Hateley, Gary Lineker, Chris Waddle.

Yesterday Gary Lineker gave England a winning send-off for the finals with a second half goal which clinched a 1-0 victory over Switzerland in a friendly.

Lineker's 59th minute goal, which raised his tally to 26 in 28 full international appearances, finally breached a stubborn Swiss defence as England extended their unbeaten run to eight games.

But the prolific Barcelona striker could have had his name on the score-sheet sooner, first in the opening minute when goalkeeper Joel Corninboeuf dived to save and again later in the first half following a fine run by John Barnes.

The tight Swiss defence held out against a series of attacks as England dominated the first half. Barnes, constantly in the thick of the action, twice came close in the first 10 minutes and defender Tony Adams nearly broke the deadlock with a 27th minute header which Corninboeuf blocked with a reflex parry.

ATHLETICS

Slaney shows no effect of injuries in 3,000m win

SAN JOSE, Calif., May 29. (Reuters): Mary Decker Slaney, showing no effect from two years of injuries, breezed to victory in the women's 3,000 metres yesterday at the Bruce Jenner Classic Grand Prix athletics meet at San Jose.

The former world champion never trailed as she won the event by 50 metres in eight minutes 49.43 seconds despite windy conditions.

It was the American's first major race at the distance since she set the US record of 8:25.83 in Rome in 1985.

"I can't wait for the good stuff to start," Slaney said referring to the Seoul Olympics.

Another of America's brightest hopes for Seoul, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, equalled the US record in the women's 100-metre hurdles as she continued preparations for a world record assault in the heptathlon later this year.

Joyner-Kersey skimmed over the hurdles, one of seven events in the heptathlon, in 12.61 seconds to tie the US mark that training partner Gail Devers set a week ago in Los Angeles.

Fastest

Britain's Eddie Wedderburn won the 3,000 metres steeplechase in eight minutes 24.9 seconds, the fastest time in the world this year in the event.

Top times of the year also were posted in the men's 800 metres, where James Robinson, a 34-year-old, two-time US Olympian, was the winner in 1:45.50, and the women's 1,500 metres, where Canadian Olympian Lynn Williams ran 4:09.09.

America's Aodre Phillips showed that he could be a factor in the men's 400 metre hurdles as he ran 48.81 seconds, second fastest in the world this year.

Olympic silver medalist Mike Conley used an aiding wind to leap 16.91 metres in the triple jump and fellow American Ken Flax whipped the hammer winning 78.96 metres on his first throw. Compatriot Roo Backes dominated the shot put with a heave of 20.80 metres.

Pakistan expected to continue revival

KUALA LUMPUR, May 29. (Reuters): Pakistan, once the kings of hockey, are staging a revival that is expected to continue in a six-nation tournament starting in Malaysia tomorrow.

After a steady decline over the past four years, Pakistan's fine performances in the Indira Gandhi Gold Cup in Lucknow, India, last January and at the Champions' Trophy in Lahore two months ago indicated a return to their best form.

Arriving in Kuala Lumpur with a relatively young side, team manager Brig (ret) Atif Khan said: "This is a rejuvenated Pak-

istan side. I think the good old days are back. Pakistan should retain the gold in the Olympics, too."

In fact, it is with the Seoul Olympics in mind that the rest of the competing teams, except Malaysia who are out of the games, have gathered for the seven-day tournament in Ipoh, 250 kilometres north of Kuala Lumpur.

Serve

South Korea, as hosts, Britain, India and the Soviet Union are all preparing for the Olympics. "The tournament will serve as a build-up for the Olympics

where we expect to clinch the bronze medal," said South Korean coach You Seung-in.

The Koreans, ranked top in Asia after upsetting Pakistan in the Asian Games by winning the gold, are drawn in Group A with the Soviet Union and India.

South Korea are also likely semifinalists. Though they have yet to play the Soviet Union, their record against India speaks volumes. They met twice and on both occasions the Koreans prevailed.

Britain, surprise bronze medalists at the 1984 Olympics, and the disciplined Soviet Union

are no pushovers either.

The Russians impressed in the Champions' Trophy where they scored their first ever victory against Britain in field hockey and later held World Cup holders Australia to a 1-1 draw.

Redeem

India seem to be struggling to find their footing since the halcyon days of the 60s, while Malaysia hope to redeem their hockey fortunes with the aid of the home crowd's support.

Group A: India, South Korea, Soviet Union.

Group B: Malaysia, Pakistan, Britain.

Kasparov close to Fisher's record

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands, May 29. (AP): World champion Gary Kasparov of the Soviet Union settled for a quick draw against Holland's Jan Timman in yesterday's last round of the European Opticos Exchange chess tournament.

Kasparov topped the final standings of the event with a score of nine points over twelve games for a first-place prize of

\$15,685 in the four-player tournament.

The finish increased his rating on the world ranking list by some 20 points.

At present, Kasparov tops the list, published every six months by the International Chess Federation (Fide), with a rating of 2750, but he is still thirty points short of his declared goal — to reach the legendary mark

Bobby Fisher of the US had set when he quit the international chess arena.

Fisher held the world title from 1972-1975, when he lost it by forfeit to Kasparov's countryman and arch rival Anatoly Karpov, and his rating of 2780 has never since been matched, but as an inactive chess player, his name no longer appears on the list.

Aouita triumphs

GRANADA, Spain, May 29. (Reuters): Morocco's Said Aouita, testing his fitness after a foot injury, cruised to victory over 1,500 metres at an athletics meeting in Granada yesterday.

The world 1,500 and 5,000 metres champion kept just off the pace until the final lap when he sprinted clear to win in three minutes 39.94 seconds. Spain's Manuel Pancorbo was second and Hans Kulker of the Netherlands third.

First Prize
Honda CRX Car + two airline tickets to London

Second Prize
18ft Rodan boat and trailer + two airline tickets to London

Further Cash prizes to be won:

Arabic and English application forms and regulations will be available from Arab Times offices, Shuwalkh, Messilah Beach Hotel and Al Seyafe Trading and Marine Services Co. Salem Al Mubarak St. Salimiyah from Saturday afternoon, May 21st.

LAST DATE
FOR ENTRIES
MAY 30, 1988



The Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers, in cooperation with Messilah Beach Hotel are organising

KUWAIT'S 2ND BI-ANNUAL OFFSHORE POWERBOAT RACE

to be held on Friday, June 3rd, 1988.



The 61.1 Nautical mile race will start from the beach opposite the Messilah Beach Hotel.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Boats must be at least 18 ft in length.
- Engines must be outboard. If a single engine boat is used, an additional 10hp engine is advised. A maximum of two engines are allowed.
- Crew must have a minimum of two persons. All must be at least 18 years of age.
- Date June 3, 1988.
- The boat must be registered with the port authority of Kuwait, or if the boat is from outside Kuwait, with the authority for its port of origin.

Safety Requirements

- All participants must have the following equipment:
 - A helmet and protective glasses.
 - Lifejackets (inflatable life jackets not permitted).
 - A marine compass (advanced electronic navigation equipment is prohibited).
 - Anchor suitable for the size of the boat and a 25 metre (minimum) rope.
 - At least three red safety flares and a fire extinguisher.
- Boats must be adequately supplied with fuel sufficient to cover the race distance.
- Any battery or fuel tank leakages must be well-checked and repaired before the race.
- Each boat should carry either a telephone or a 2 way radio system.

Failure to comply with the above regulations and safety requirements will result in disqualification. Scrutineering will be held prior to the race, and competitors must display their safety equipment on the deck of the boat.

Bulletins detailing further requirements/information will be issued from time to time.

- Participation is open to all Gulf Citizens and residents who have lived in the Gulf for a minimum of six months.
- Last date for accepting entries is May 30, 1988.

Entry fee per person KD 15,000

Official Sponsors



Official Race Hotel
فندق ساهل الميلاخ الكويت
Messilah Beach Hotel Kuwait



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Messilah Beach Hotel Kuwait



Honda CRX

Honda CRX

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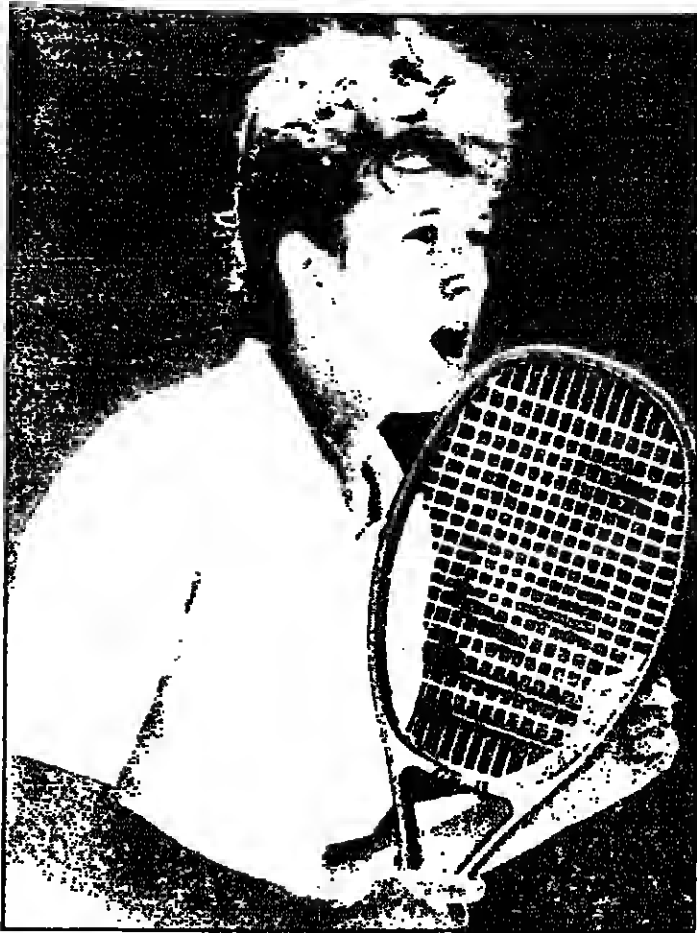
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PEREZ-ROLDAN SURPRISES EDBERG

Russian teenager stuns Navratilova



Zvereva yells in jubilation after her victory. (Reuters wirephoto)

PARIS, May 29. (Reuters). Teenager Natalia Zvereva emerged as the new hero of Soviet tennis today when she beat twice former champion Martina Navratilova in the fourth round of the French Open.

The 17-year-old from Minsk, winner of the French, Wimbledon and US Open junior titles in 1987, won 6-3 7-6 in a dramatic match before a capacity 16,500 centre court crowd which roared their approval as she clinched her most famous victory 7-5 in a heart-stopping tiebreak.

Encounter Zvereva, seeded 13th, showed maturity beyond her years throughout the 91-minute encounter which had been interrupted for 40 minutes by rain with the Russian leading 3-1 30-30 in the second set.

Her hopes of emulating 16-year-old Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez, who defeated the other "grande dame" of tennis, Chris Evert, yesterday, appeared as bleak as the sky when she returned to court and lost the first six points as Navratilova clawed her way back to 3-3.

The men's singles also lost its number two seed when Stefan Edberg was beaten 7-5 6-3 6-3 by 15th-seeded Argentine Guillermo Perez-Roldan.

Navratilova, 31, holder of 17 Grand Slam titles, the reigning champion of Wimbledon and the

United States, and runner up at Roland Garros for the past three years, had conceded a mere five games to Zvereva in four previous sets.

But the pert Russian took one look at the magnificent surroundings, decided she liked what she saw and proceeded to dismantle Navratilova's fearsome serve-volley game.

Ranked 15th in the world, the stylish Soviet number one wrapped up the first set in 34 minutes thanks to a decisive break of serve in the eighth game when Navratilova fell behind 5-3 after a double fault.

Though her own two-fist backhand is anything but an object of beauty, Zvereva used to great effect in the ninth game when, after squandering three set points, she beat Navratilova with an ungainly but highly effective backhand smash.

Troubled by the swirling wind, Navratilova was soon in deeper trouble when she fell behind 1-3 0-30 in the second set. She won the next two points before both players had to hurry from the court under a sudden downpour of rain.

With the crowd unreservedly behind the young Russian, there was immediate disappointment on the resumption when she lost the next six points in a row before recovering her nerve.

A series of stunning backhand

winners and one truly remarkably return off a full-blooded Navratilova smash took her ahead 5-4 and serving for the match, an opportunity Zvereva lost when she served a double fault at 30-30.

But it was Navratilova's nerve which cracked as games then went with serve to 6-6 and the tiebreak.

Zvereva built up a 6-3 lead, saw Navratilova save two match points with stunning volley winners, then blasted yet another two-fisted backhand past her lunging opponent.

Zvereva's opponent in the quarterfinals will be sixth-seeded Czechoslovak Helena Sukova, a matronly 23, who beat American Zina Garrison 6-1 6-2.

Perez-Roldan will play fellow 18-year-old and big-hitter Andre Agassi for a place in the semifinals. The ninth-seeded American defeated unseeded Swede Magnus Gustafsson 6-4 6-2 4-6 6-0 in a match which was halted twice — by the rain and by the collapse of the net.

In another match Mats Wilander of Sweden scored a 6-1 7-6 6-3 victory over Ronald Agener of Haiti.

"I'm playing very well now and I feel very confident," said Perez-Roldan, who lost in the first round of the French Open last year. "And physically I feel very good."

Gooch hits century before lunch for Essex

LONDON, May 29. (Reuters). England opener Graham Gooch continued his prolific run of scoring yesterday with a century before lunch for Essex on the first day of their three-day County Championship match against Surrey at Chelmsford.

Fresh from his unbeaten century against Warwickshire in a midweek Benson and Hedges Cup match, Gooch raced into three figures from 120 balls and went on to make 139 before he was bowled.

Gooch, who struck a career best 275 on the same ground against Kent last month, shared in an opening stand of 138 with Brian Hardie, who contributed a modest 36.

But then slow left-arm bowler Keith Medleycoit inspired a Surrey fightback by removing Paul Pritchard, Allan Border and Derek Pringle in the space of seven overs and Essex were all out for 302.

Surrey had reached 22 without loss by the close.

Championship leaders Middlesex found runs hard to come by against Sussex at Lord's where Pakistan captain Imran Khan made good use of a helpful pitch to take five for 50.

Middlesex and England captain Mike Gatting struggled to make 31 and only John Carr looked at ease as he made a fluent 76 that contained 12 fours as the home side were dismissed for 261. Sussex were 49 for two in reply at the close.

Another Pakistani Test player, pace bowler Wasim Akram, scored his maiden first-class century with an unbeaten 116 as Lancashire reached 329



Imran: five for 50

for nine against Somerset at Old Trafford.

His century took 187 minutes and contained two sixes and 12 fours.

Scores

At Swansea: Glamorgan v Gloucestershire no play — rain. At Chelmsford: Essex 302 in 101.2 overs (G. Gooch 139). Surrey 22 for no wicket in 13 overs.

At Middlesbrough: Hampshire 130 in 62.2 overs (A. Sidebottom five for 30). Yorkshire 89 for two in 45 overs.

At Northampton: Northamptonshire 327 for eight (D. Capel 75, A. Lamb 70, R. Bailey 55, W. Larkins 42) v Leicestershire.

At Old Trafford: Lancashire 329 for nine (Wasim Akram 116 not out, M. Watkinson 5, D. Hughes 42) v Somerset.

At Derby: Derbyshire 143 in 58.2 overs (P. Bowler 50, F. Stephenson six for 44). Nottinghamshire 124 for four in 48 overs (C. Broad 41).

At Lord's: Middlesex 261 in 81.3 overs (J. Carr 76, Imran Khan five for 50). Sussex 49 for two in 25 overs.

England recall Thomas and Gower for first Test

LONDON, May 29. (Reuters). England have recalled Glamorgan pace bowler Greg Thomas in a squad of 13 for the first cricket Test against West Indies starting at Trent Bridge on Thursday.

Thomas, who played the last of his five Tests against New Zealand two seasons ago, is the only surprise in a line-up in which David Gower is recalled for his 97th Test.

Allan Lamb, who scored three Test hundreds against the West Indies four years ago, is also selected although his Test record since then has been mediocre. He has a top score of only 67 from his last 39 innings.

Thomas, 27, toured the Caribbean in 1986 but despite showing glimpses of genuine pace he took only eight wickets in his four Tests at an average of 45.50 runs each. This season his 12 wickets have cost him almost 40 runs

each. All-rounder Derek Pringle and wicketkeeper Peter May, who both performed successfully in England's clean sweep of the one-day series, have both been included.

"We have gone for experience," chairman of selectors Peter May said.

"It is the first game of the series and it is vital to get a good start. Thomas has been brought in to cover every possibility."

"Micky Stewart (the England manager) has seen him this season and given us good report of his bowling."

Team: Graham Gooch, Chris Broad, Mike Gatting (captain), David Gower, Allan Lamb, Paul Downton, Derek Pringle, John Emburey, Philip DeFreitas, Paul Jarvis, Graham Dilley, Eddie Hemmings, Greg Thomas.

Schwartz wins Grand Prix

NUERBURGRING, West Germany, May 29. (AP). American Kevin Schwartz scored his second 500cc victory of the season today, riding his Suzuki flawlessly on a wet course at the West German Motorcycling Grand Prix.

Schwartz, winner of the Japanese Grand Prix, covered the 30-lap, 136.260-kilometre course in one hour, 1:52.27 minutes.

The 23-year-old American, in his first full season on the circuit,

mastered the rainy conditions early in the race and held on for a comfortable victory.

Another American, Wayne Rainey, finished second on a Yamaha, 25.03 seconds behind, while Christian Sarron of France on a Yamaha was third, 51.55 seconds behind.

Eddie Lawson of the United States, who placed fourth on a Yamaha, retained the world championship lead with 105 points after six of 16 races.

Bin Sulayem 20th after first stage

ATHENS, (Greece). While the factory Lancias went into an early battle with the Toyotas and Mazdas, Middle East champion Mohammed Bin Sulayem (UAE), in his Marlboro backed Ford Sierra Cosworth, stuck to his teams 'play safe' tactics on the first leg of the Acropolis Rally yesterday.

Last year's winner Markku Alen and his Lancia team-mate Mikael Eriksson, set identical times of 3.18 to take the lead after the first 4.47 km long 'super special' stage. The Dubai ace clocked 3.28 to come back to Parc Ferme in 20th place.

"The team tactics are to play safe, conserve the car and go for a good finish," explained Marlboro team manager Bob Freethorpe. "Mohammed and Roman followed these instructions well today, it is still a long way to go."

Third place was taken by the new four-wheel-drive Toyota Celica Turbo of former world champion Bjorn Waldegard, one second behind the two Lancias. It is this vehicle that Bin Sulayem and Irish navigator Roman Morgan hope to run in the 1989 Middle East series. One second behind the Swedish veteran came the Lancia Delta HF of the young Italian star Alessandro Fiorio.

Wound

Championship leader Massimo Biasion of Italy was equal fifth in his Lancia after the first time trial.

A total of 102 cars with drivers from 19 countries started the 1,778 kms four-day rally in brilliant sunshine at the foot of the Acropolis.

The cars wound through the streets of Athens and out along the spectator-lined coast to the Anvisos stage, one of 32 and the only leg of the rally today.

Tomorrow the drivers will tackle the 365.70-km second leg with five special stages, leaving from and returning to Lagonissi.

Leading placings:

1. Equal, Markku Alen (Finland) Lancia Delta Integrale, Kenneth Eriksson (Sweden) Lancia Delta Integrale three minutes 18 seconds.
2. Bjorn Waldegard (Sweden) Toyota Celica Turbo, 3:19.
3. Alessandro Fiorio (Italy) Lancia Delta Integrale, 3:20.
4. Equal, Juha Kankkunen (Finland) Toyota Celica Turbo, Timo Salonen (Finland) Mazda 323 4WD00, Massimo Biasion (Italy) Lancia Delta Integrale 3:22.

Ballesteros takes PGA tourney lead

WENTWORTH, England, May 29. (Reuters). Severiano Ballesteros birdied the last two holes for the second successive day and moved past Bernhard Langer into a one-stroke third-round lead in the British PGA Golf Championship today.

Ballesteros suffered in swirling winds for nine holes, then collected four birdies on the back nine for a one-under-par 71 and 10-under-par 54-hole total of 206.

Senna to start in pole position

MEXICO CITY, May 29. (Reuters). Brazilian Ayrton Senna was to start in pole position in today's Mexican Grand Prix after a practice which saw French driver Philippe Alliot walk away unhurt from a spectacular crash in front of the pits.

The crash yesterday hindered Senna in his attempts to improve on his time of one minute 17.468 seconds in Friday's first official practice.

Start

His McLaren team-mate, Frenchman Alain Prost, who currently heads the world championship table after wins in Brazil and Monaco, will also start on the front row of the grid.

Yesterday's practice was almost over without incident when Alliot, driving a Lola, hit the outside kerb coming round the bend into the pits straight.

He lost control and hit the inside wall. The car spun over and bounced about 70 metres to the other side, showering the track with debris. The car body ended upside down but Alliot stepped out clutching the steering wheel and walked across the



Senna talks with a member of his pit crew before the practice. (Reuters wirephoto)

track. The official doctor later pronounced him in "a perfect condition", but his team considered

him lucky to be alive. "It was one of the worst accidents I've seen," said one Lola mechanic. "He doesn't

Al Hajri seeks 'revenge' victory

THE battle for the 1988 Middle East Rally Championship — heated beyond its normally high temperature by a controversial result in the last round — resumes in Jordan next month with Rothmans star Saad Al Hajri determined to take a 'revenge' victory.

Qatar's Al Hajri, two times Middle East champion, goes into the Rothmans Jordan Rally on June 15-17 twelve points adrift of current leader Mohammed Bin Sulayem of Dubai knowing that he must reduce the deficit to enhance his chances of regaining the title.

After a puncture on the penultimate stage robbed him of victory in the first round in Qatar, Al Hajri was declared provisional winner of the Kuwait International Rally in March. But he was penalised two minutes on a technicality and, as a result, lost the rally to Sulayem.

SUII

The two results, while less than Al Hajri had hoped for, have nevertheless convinced him that all he needs to win the championship is a change of luck. "The Rothmans Audi Quattro has proved very reliable and much more competitive than the Porsche 911 which I drove for the last four seasons," he said.

"The car is now a good match for Mohammed's Toyota Celica turbo. Although I lost half-a-minute when the Audi stopped on the first stage in Kuwait, I still won 12 of the 15 stages and finished comfortably ahead of Mohammed."

In Jordan, Mohammed has always enjoyed a big advantage because the Celica was far faster than the Porsche on the long desert sections. But I have still won Jordan three times and I will do all I can to make this the fourth.

By Gail Seery

THE organisers of the 2nd Kuwait Bi-annual Offshore Powerboat Race, to be held from the Messilah Beach Hotel at 1.00pm on Friday, June 3, achieved one of their objectives — to attract foreign competitors — when Dubai-based competitors, Khaled Mohammed Salem Bakhit and Abdullah Al Sha'ali arrived in Kuwait this week to take part in the competition.

Bakhit has entered a Tigercat powered by two 6-cylinder Mercury engines, in which he took third position in the Dubai off-shore Powerboat Race in April. He is unhappy about that placing because, he alleges, the second place boat did not round all the turning points. His navigator will be his brother, Hamid Bakhit, who was the navigator in the winning boat, which sustained extensive damage after the race.

Ideal

Khaled Bakhit says that he has always loved the sea and boating, and that powerboat racing is a sport he and his family thoroughly enjoys. "We have

ideal conditions here in the Gulf," he added.

Bakhit has participated in all the Dubai races to date, and is keen to enter any further events to be held in the Gulf. He added that although the number of entries in this race is expected to be low, compared with the impressive 54-boat turnout in Dubai, he realises that the sport is growing here and is happy to participate and to help it reach its potential. He said that he would certainly be happy to see the development of a confederation of national powerboat associations, so that in future a challenge series on the lines of the Middle East rally championship could be held.

"We are aiming to finish in the top three," he said, but added that as far as he could make out, the small opposition would nevertheless be strong.

Abdulla Al Sha'ali won the Dubai powerboat race in 1986 and came second in last year's event. His navigator for the Kuwait race is Ali Alwan. He will also be driving a Tigercat boat powered by two 6-cylinder Mercury engines, and like Bakhit, is aiming for a good finishing position.

A third Dubai driver is also expected to arrive shortly. The participation of the Emirates boats will undoubtedly provide encouragement both to the organisers and the small, but keen, field of local competitors.

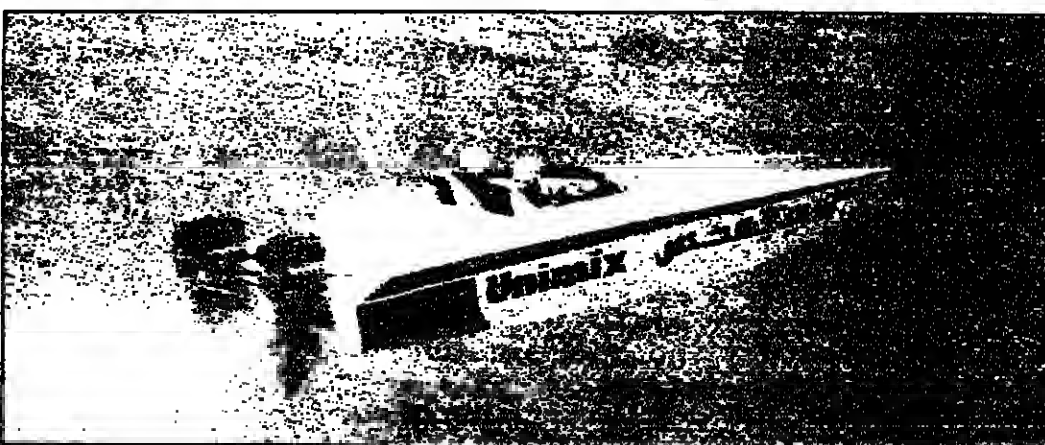
Ahmed Al Hassan, one of the local competitors, didn't finish the first Kuwait powerboat race in October last year due to a damaged transom and engine brackets on his Bertram deep ve

Rain prevents W. Indies reply

WORCESTER, England, May 29. (Reuters). Rain prevented a West Indies reply to the Worcestershire first innings total of 321 for three declared on the second day of their three-day cricket match today.

The only moment of interest arrived in the first over when Graeme Hick edged a delivery from fast bowler Patrick Patterson to wicket-keeper Jeff Dujon.

He failed to add to his glorious 172 yesterday, the innings which took him into the record books as only the eighth player to score 1,000 runs in first class cricket before the end of May.



Khaled Bakhit during last month's Dubai powerboat race.

boat. In this race he will be going for a win from the start, and feels that if all goes well for him, it is not beyond his reach.

"Winning depends on many things, not just luck," he said, denying that the Emirates entrants would necessarily have a better chance of winning. "My boat is very good, and it is a specially designed race boat. Although it's old, the V-shape of the hull is very good for the Gulf waters. I am hoping for rough

seas," he smiled. "I have good experience of such conditions."

Al Hassan feels that there will be a number of strong local contenders including Mishal Al Jarallah, who will be making his debut outing in the 27-foot Cougar Catamaran, powered by two Mercury engines.

Some of the drivers who competed in the last event have expressed disappointment that this time the race has been limited to outboard entrants only. Isam

Al Gharabally, who has only inboard engines said: "It's too early to make the race just outboard. The sport is still fresh in Kuwait, and we need as many drivers as possible to take part."

He added that the Kuwait Sea Club, who had been involved with the previous event, were hoping to have a race of their own later in the summer.

Standards The decision to ban inboard boats from participating in this event was taken because the organisers aim to conform to the high standards set by the Dubai race, so that a pan-Gulf series of events can be developed.

The success of this measure can be seen by the decision of the Emirates teams to take part. Khaled Bakhit said that he was certain that the decision would encourage drivers from outside Kuwait to participate in the races here, and added that he felt that there was a great deal of interest in offshore powerboat racing in Oman and Qatar besides Kuwait and Dubai.

The last date for entries for the boat race is today, and a small but highly competitive race can be expected.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Wolves win

WEMBLEY, England, May 29. (AP). Wolverhampton Wanderers and Burnley, two English soccer powerhouses of the 1950s and 60s but now languishing in the lower reaches of the League, drew some 81,000 fans to Wembley stadium today in the final of the little known Sherpa van Trophy. Wolves won 2-0.

Australia win

BRISBANE, May 29. (Reuters). Michael Lynagh kicked six penalties as an enterprising England side squandered a 13-3 lead to lose 22-16 to Australia in the first Rugby Union international today.

WBC title

SEOUL, May 29. (Reuters). Mexico's Daniel Zaragoza clung onto his World Boxing Council (WBC) super-bantamweight title in a hard-fought draw with South Korean Lee Seung-Hoon today.

WBA crown

TIJUANA, Mexico, May 29. (Reuters). Juan Jose Estrada of Mexico won the World Boxing Association (WBA) junior-featherweight title yesterday when he outpointed Bernardo Pinango of Venezuela.

Dutch squad

AMSTERDAM, May 29. (Reuters). Dutch national coach Rinus Michels has chosen a squad of 20 that is strong in strikers but suspect in defence for next month's European Championship finals in West Germany.

Belgian Cup

BRUSSELS, May 29. (Reuters). Anderlecht won the Belgian Cup for the sixth time when they beat Standard Liege 2-0 in the final yesterday.

W. German Cup

WEST BERLIN, May 29. (Reuters). Eintracht Frankfurt won the West German Cup yesterday when Hungarian World Cup player Lajos Detari sank Bochum with the only goal of the final in the last 10 minutes.

Memorial Golf

DUBLIN, Ohio, May 29. (Reuters). Hale Irwin, fighting off the effects of a stomach virus, maintained a one stroke lead after three rounds of the \$912,000 Memorial Golf tournament yesterday.

Cycling tour

CAMPITELLO MATESE, Italy, May 29. (AP). Franco Chioccioli of Italy won the sixth stop of the Tour of Italy yesterday, finishing the 137-kilometre leg in three hours 52 minutes and 55 seconds.

Kerala Sports and Camy reach final

CAMY and Kerala Sports 'B' reached the final of the Jimmy George Memorial Trophy volleyball tournament with victories over Al Jahili Food Centre and Royal Sporting Club at the Fahahel ground on Friday.

Camy dominated their game against Al Jahili to score a 15-12 15-5 win and Kerala also scored a straight sets 15-13 15-3 victory over Sporting.

In the Camy-Al Jahili game, the former started the game on an aggressive note but the latter soon changed their tactics and got back into the game before losing the first set. The second set was a one-sided affair with Camy always ahead. Sunny, Ranjit and Iqbal played well for Al Jahili while Abdul Majeed, Joshy and Kunjabdulla were outstanding from the Camy squad.

Fight The Kerala-Sporting game was a similar affair with the latter putting up a fight in the first set but going down tamely in the second.

Two matches will be held on Friday. In the first match, for the third place, Al Jahili meet Royal Sporting at 6.00 am while the final between Camy and Kerala is scheduled for 7.00 am. Both the matches will be played at the Fahahel ground.

The tournament is being sponsored by Vandana weekly and organised by the Kuwait Malayalam Samajam.

BRIDGE

RESULTS of the Hibernia Bridge Club game played on Saturday:

1. Sandra & Adel
2. Salama Ali & Adam
3. Jagjit & Dr Parikh
4. E/W:
1. Gajjar & Akshita
2. Ramin & Kadoura
3. Dhruva & Chandrasekhar

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Editor-in-Chief

Ahmed Al Jarallah

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22332 KT

Telephones:

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